Bengaluru Wednesday, May 13, 2026 Pages 16 Vol 79 No 132 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Himanta takes oath as Assam CM

Begins 2nd successive term; 4 MLAs sworn in as ministers

Page 10

Nation

'LoP not rubber stamp': Rahul dissents on CBI chief pick P.10

World

US energy dept: Strait of Hormuz may stay shut till late May P.12

State

CM change: Cong leaders seek clarity P.5

Nation

India attacks China over help to Pak P.7

Quickly

Moody's lowers India growth forecast

Rating agency Moody's on Tuesday lowered its forecast on India's GDP growth for 2026 by 80 basis points to 6%, citing weaker private consumption and slower investments and high energy costs amid West Asia tensions. It said the impact of the global supply chain disruptions would linger in 2027.
Details on Page 13

SC: Sabarimala women entry personal choice

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that whether barring women of menstrual age from entering the Sabarimala temple amounts to a "taboo" or not is a matter of individual choice and conscience. It said that if people, through elected representatives, decide the practice requires reform, the court may accept it.
Details on Page 11

Man charred to death in EV fire

An elderly man was charred to death after an electric scooter allegedly caught fire while being charged at his house in Murphy Town in Halasuru in Bengaluru in the early hours of Tuesday. Lourd Nathan (65) was sleeping in a small room of his house where the vehicle was being charged, when it caught fire.
Details on Page 3

TESTING TIMES

2013 Three-judge bench headed by then **CJI Altamas Kabir** strikes down NEET as unconstitutional

2016 **SC revives NEET** in 2016 after recalling its earlier judgment

2017 Tamil Nadu medical aspirant **S Anitha,** who had challenged NEET in court, dies by suicide

2019 NEET under scrutiny in 2019 after **impersonation racket uncovered in TN**

2024 Controversy as questions raised over unusually **high number of candidates securing top ranks;** SC declines to order re-test

NEET-UG cancelled after paper leak

RE-EXAM: CBI to conduct probe; new dates soon

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid allegations of paper leak, the National Testing Agency (NTA) on Tuesday cancelled the NEET (UG) 2026. The move is set to affect over 22 lakh students who took the examination on May 3.

Calling it "unfortunate", NTA Director General Abhishek Singh said that they take full responsibility for the leak. "It is unfortunate that there are paper leaks even now. It is unfair to the students and their parents and it is our responsibility. We have cancelled the examination with the assurance that we will not allow any violations to the integrity of the tests," Singh said.

The government has referred the matter to the CBI for a comprehensive inquiry.

On the sidelines of an event, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan refused to comment on the issue.

The Opposition attacked the Centre, alleging administrative failure, insensitivity toward students and "repeated lapses" in the conduct of national-level competitive examinations.

Consequently, special CBI teams have been formed and dispatched to various locations for investigation. The CBI has registered an FIR for offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust, theft and destruction of evidence under BNS, offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act and offences under the Public Examination Prevention of Unfair Means Act, 2024.

The CBI on Tuesday evening took into its custody Shubham Khairnar (30) from Nashik in Maharashtra in connection with the alleged paper leak.

"On the basis of the inputs examined by the NTA in coordination with Central agencies, and the investigative findings shared by the law enforcement agencies, the NTA, with the approval of the Centre, has decided to cancel the NEET (UG) 2026 examination conducted on May 3, and to re-conduct the examination on dates that will be notified separately," the NTA said.

▸ NEET, Page 6
Related reports, Page 7

SFI activists protest in New Delhi on Tuesday after the NEET-UG 2026 was cancelled. PTI

K'taka revives demand to scrap NEET

Karnataka reiterated its demand to scrap the NEET for medical admissions after the Union government cancelled it Tuesday following a paper leak, which Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said would impact more than a lakh students from the state.
Details on Page 5

Over 700 state cops suspended in 2 years

60% from B'luru; some accused of dacoity, murder

SHRINIDHI R
DHARWAD, DHNS

More than 700 police officers of various ranks across Karnataka were suspended pending inquiry between January 2024 and January 2026 for alleged involvement in criminal activities, corruption, dereliction of duty and other forms of misconduct, according to data available with the police department.

Of the 713 officers suspended during the period, 95 were booked in criminal cases, 62 faced corruption charges and 556 were suspended for involvement in other illegal activities and departmental violations. Of the total suspensions, nearly 60% are from Bengaluru.

What has raised serious concern within the department is that some police personnel were allegedly involved in grave offences like dacoity, theft, murder and cheating, bringing disrepute to the force.

Department records further reveal that around 400 of the suspended police officers have already been found guilty and are undergoing punishment depending on the nature of the offences committed.

Suspended officers

Dy superintendents of police	7
Inspectors	61
Sub-inspectors	75
Assistant sub-inspectors	73
Head constables	231
Constables	266

In one of the most high-profile cases, a police inspector from Dharwad was convicted in the murder of BJP leader Yogeshgouda Goudar. A special court recently sentenced him to seven years in prison.

In another recent incident, a police inspector and three constables from Dharwad were suspended following the suicide of a student, allegedly linked to police harassment.

In Davangere, two police sub-inspectors allegedly posed as officials of the inspector general's squad and looted 80 grams of gold from a gold merchant. They are now facing robbery charges.

Similarly, a head constable was suspended for allegedly being involved in the kidnapping of a BPO manager, while a constable was arrested on charges of masterminding the day-light dacoity of Rs 7 crore from an armoured vehicle.

▸ Suspended, Page 6

12.5% hike in basic pay for RTC employees

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka on Tuesday announced a 12.5% hike in basic pay for the 1.05 lakh employees and officers of the state's four bus corporations, with effect from April 1, 2025.

Due to the hike in salaries, the corporations will incur an additional expenditure of Rs 72.80 crore per month and Rs 873.64 crore annually.
Details on Page 6

AIADMK suffers vertical split; CM Vijay meets 'rebel' group

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

The AIADMK suffered a vertical split on Tuesday, with a group led by former ministers S P Velumani and C Ve Shanmugam rebelling against Edappadi K Palaniswami and declaring their support for the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government led by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay.

The rebel faction stated that they were compelled to rebel against Palaniswami because he attempted to forge an alliance with the DMK to regain power at any cost. They later met the chief minister.

However, the faction led by Palaniswami met newly-elected Speaker J C D Prabhakar on Tuesday afternoon and submitted a letter stating that Palaniswami was the leader of the AIADMK Legislature Party.

Senior leader Agri S S Krishnamurthy said the party has issued a whip to the AIADMK MLAs that they should vote against the TVK government and warned of action if they failed to do so.

He also dismissed the claims that Palaniswami held talks with the DMK.

▸ AIADMK, Page 6
Sanatana Dharma should be eradicated: Udhay, Page 10

Rs 2.55 cr per acre: Govt fixes Bidadi township compensation

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

A developed residential site measuring 9,693 square feet or monetary compensation three times the guidance value are among the two primary compensation packages to be offered to farmers whose lands are notified for the 7,481-acre integrated township project in Bidadi, about 40 km from the city centre.

The state government, which approved the project last month, has taken a liberal approach compared to other infrastructure projects in a bid to win back farmers protesting against the proposed township.

The compensation structure has been formalised as the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBDA) is preparing to issue the final notification as the state Cabinet recently approved the project.

According to the compensation package, the GBDA and the Bengaluru South district administration have fixed village-wise cash compensation of anywhere between Rs 2.07 crore and Rs 2.55 crore per acre. Properties with road access get an additional monetary relief.

Liberal relief

- Site measuring 9,693 square feet or monetary compensation three times the guidance value
- Properties with road access get an additional monetary relief
- Developed residential land is the second option which involves providing 50% of the developed residential land back to the land losers

▸ Bidadi, Page 6

West Asia crisis a balance of payments stress test: CEA

NEW DELHI, PTI: The ongoing West Asia crisis is a "live balance of payments stress test", with direct consequences for inflation, the current account, and the exchange rate, but India's fiscal consolidation path, infrastructure investment and reforms provide it a base to navigate the current environment of conflict, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said on Tuesday.

Dr V Anantha Nageswaran

He said 87% of India's crude requirement is imported, of which 46% is transiting through or near the Strait of Hormuz, where the seven-day moving average tanker traffic has fallen to five vessels. Sixty per cent of our LPG is imported, over 90% via the Gulf and 38% of annual remittances originate in Gulf countries.

"The West Asia crisis, therefore, is not a foreign policy concern that occasionally bleeds into economic planning. It is a live balance of payments stress test, with direct consequences for inflation, the current account, and the exchange rate.

▸ West Asia, Page 6

Govt launches Maritime Insurance Pool

The government on Tuesday launched the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool to provide risk cover to Indian vessels on international sea routes, including war and high-risk zones.
Details on Page 13

LEOPARD ATTACK

Trekking halted on routes within wildlife habitats

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre has directed officials to temporarily suspend all trekking and transit routes passing through zones that witness wildlife movement across the state.

Eshwar B Khandre

The order comes in the wake of the death of a 10-year-old boy in a leopard attack at Nagamale forest area in Chamarajanagar district recently.

Chairing a virtual meeting of senior officials in Bengaluru on Tuesday, he said the decision was taken keeping in mind the safety of the public and trekkers.

According to a circular issued by the chief wildlife warden Kumar Pushkar, all trekking and footpath routes in areas frequented by leopards, tigers, elephants, bears and other wild animals, or places where incidents of human-wildlife conflict have been reported, will remain closed until further orders.

Khandre also instructed foresters to ensure trekking activities are conducted only in a safe and responsible manner. He directed strict implementation of the recently issued standard operating procedures for trekking and eco-tourism activities in forests.

The minister said trekking routes, where safety measures are not in place should be immediately shut down until necessary arrangements are made.

The Karnataka Forest Department and the Karnataka Eco Tourism Development Board have been asked to resume trekking activities only after ensuring safety.

Taking no chances

- Khandre had banned trekking to Kumara Parvatha and other routes after hundreds of adventure seekers flocked to the sites on Jan 26, 2024. Ban was eased in October 2024
- Following multiple tigers attack around Nagarhole and Bandipur, Khandre had banned jeep safaris at these tiger reserves in Nov 2025. Partial tiger safaris were restarted in Feb 2026

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Final round of Namma Super 30 tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: Orchids International School will host the final round of the 'Namma Super 30' initiative at its Kanakapura Road campus on Thursday.

Namma Super 30 is an educational initiative aimed at identifying and nurturing academically talented students from across Karnataka.

This year, more than 5,000 students registered for the programme, of whom nearly 3,000 appeared for the first round of the selection process. Following a competitive evaluation, 1,500 students qualified for Round 2. The top 150 finalists have now been invited to the Orchids Kanakapura Road campus for the final selection round on Thursday.

According to a statement, the final selection round will assess academic merit while also highlighting the journeys, aspirations and dedication of students and their families from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

Ajaneesh Loknath concert on Saturday

BENGALURU, DHNS: A live Kannada music concert featuring the compositions of music director and composer B Ajaneesh Loknath will be held at Bhartiya Mall on Saturday.

Titled 'B Ajaneesh Loknath Live in Bengaluru', the event is billed as one of the first large-scale Kannada cinematic music experiences of its kind, combining live orchestration, immersive visuals, cinematic stage production and performances of some of Loknath's most iconic compositions, according to a press release.

The concert will feature performances by singers Vijay Prakash, Mangli, Nakash Aziz, Ananya Bhatt, Sanvi Sudeep, Sanjith Hegde, Harishankar, Abby, Vasuki Vaibhav, Anirudh, Iswarya, Ramdoss, Sai Vignesh, Harishika and Bobby, along with several other artists associated with Loknath's musical journey.

Additional artist announcements and celebrity appearances will be revealed soon, the release added.

Student's gold chain goes missing at pub

BENGALURU, DHNS: A birthday celebration at a pub in The LaLiT Ashok hotel turned costly for a 21-year-old student, who allegedly lost a gold chain worth around Rs 3 lakh while partying with friends.

The student, a resident of AECS Layout, Kundalahalli, visited Kitty Ko pub on May 9 for the celebrations. Later, he realised the gold chain he was wearing was missing.

He filed a complaint with the High Grounds police, stating that the 40-gram chain went missing between 11.30 pm and 12.30 am. Police have registered a case.

City life may be wiring the brain for chronic pain

Overlapping symptoms and absent test markers leave patients misdiagnosed for years

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Fibromyalgia, a chronic pain condition linked to how the brain and nervous system process pain signals, is particularly relevant in cities such as Bengaluru, where stress, sedentary lifestyles, sleep deprivation, and low Vitamin D levels are common, doctors say.

The disorder causes widespread body pain, fatigue, poor sleep and brain fog. It has no typical symptoms or standard tests, often leading to delayed diagnosis.

"Fibromyalgia is a complex condition that is difficult to treat because it is not simply a disorder of the muscles or joints. It affects sleep and mood, can cause fatigue, and may also impair cognition. Many studies suggest that the problem lies in how the brain and spinal cord process pain signals. This phenomenon is known as central sensitisation," said Dr Muralidhar Thondebhavi Subbaramaiah, Senior Pain and Spine Specialist and President, Karnataka Chapter, Indian Society for Study of Pain.

In Fibromyalgia patients, the brain interprets pain differently, making the pain pathways hyperactive.

"Overactive pain pathways lead to hyperalgesia, where mild pain feels severe, and allodynia, where non-painful stimuli such as light touch are perceived as painful.

Understanding Fibromyalgia

- Chronic pain disorder linked to abnormal pain processing in the brain.
- Symptoms include body pain, fatigue, poor sleep and "brain fog".
- Stress, sedentary lifestyle and low Vitamin D may raise risk in Bengaluru.
- No standard diagnostic test; symptoms overlap with several illnesses.

- Poor sleep and Vitamin D deficiency can worsen pain and fatigue.

Fibromyalgia does not involve visible structural damage or inflammation. Instead, it is a dysfunction in pain processing, so routine tests do not reflect the severity of the disorder," said Dr Ravikumar TV, Head of Department and Consultant, Orthopaedics. The symptoms of Fibromyalgia overlap with several autoimmune, neurological and musculoskeletal disorders, often leading to misdiagnosis.

"Rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue syndrome, hypothyroidism, depression, anxiety disorders, and irritable bowel syndrome are some of the diseases with overlapping symptoms. Experts also identify fibro fog as a primary symptom, describing the cognitive and memory challenges experienced by people with Fibromyalgia," said Dr Raghavendra Ramanjulu, Lead Consultant, Pain and Palliative Medicine and Interventional Pain Physician.

Importance of Vitamin D

"Vitamin D plays an important role in muscle strength, bone health, nerve function, and reducing inflammation. Many people with Fibromyalgia are found to have low Vitamin D levels, and there may be a meaningful connection. Low Vitamin D levels can also produce symptoms similar to Fibromyalgia. Some studies show that improving Vitamin D levels may help reduce pain and fatigue in certain patients," said Dr Chethana D, Senior Consultant, Rheumatology.

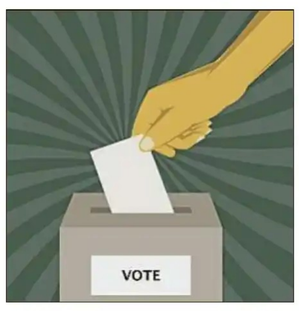
Sleep issues

Many people with Fibromyalgia also struggle with falling asleep, staying asleep or getting restful sleep. Poor sleep quality can make the body more sensitive to pain, leading to increased muscle aches, tenderness, fatigue and stiffness.

'Joke is on us': Anger mounts over delay in civic polls

SEC's SC affidavit ends any hope of elections

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS



A day after the State Election Commission (SEC) filed an application before the Supreme Court seeking a three-month extension to hold the Bengaluru civic polls, citizens and aspiring councillors were left wondering whether the city would ever get an elected civic body.

Many feared that "some reason or the other" would continue to be cited to defer the polls.

"The joke is on us, dear Bengaluru," said independent mobility expert Satya Arikutharam, reacting to the SEC's application on Monday, filed just days after the commission had promised to hold the civic polls in the third week of June.

"If there is staff shortage, why can't the government hire temporary staff? Come September, they will cite monsoon rains, energy crisis or something else to postpone the polls again," he said.

In its affidavit before the Supreme Court, the SEC endorsed the government's decision to seek a three-month delay, citing staff shortage in view of census work and preparations for Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls.

PADMANABHA REDDY
BJP leader and former councillor

"The delimitation and ward reservation processes are already complete. The commission has the authority to begin election preparations. It now appears to be acting as a puppet of the government. The government and the SEC had more than six months to prepare.

NR RAMESH
Former councillor

"Most Bengaluru MLAs do not want the elections to be held. There is also opposition to the restructuring of corporations without proper offices being set up. Several petitions are pending before the courts. All this could delay the elections by another two years.

Urban expert Ashwin Mahesh said the government should conduct census work by appointing temporary staff and the elections should not suffer further delays. "The SEC should function as a completely independent body," he said.

Pointing to the recurring delays, he said one institution is responsible for conducting elections, while another handles preparatory work. "That is why the elections are repeatedly delayed. A single statutory authority should be empowered to oversee the entire process," he added.

Just last week, the SEC had promised to hold the elections between June 14 and 24, declining the Greater Bengaluru Authority's request for a three-month extension.

BJP leader and former councillor Padmanabha Reddy alleged that the SEC was acting at the behest of the government.

"The delimitation and ward reservation processes are already complete. The commission has the authority to begin election preparations. It now appears to be acting as a puppet of the government," he said, adding that the government and the SEC had more than six months to prepare.

Former councillor NR Ramesh claimed the polls may not be held anytime soon due to resistance from a majority of MLAs and pending litigation.

"Most Bengaluru MLAs do not want the elections to be held. There is also opposition to the restructuring of corporations without proper offices being set up. Several petitions are pending before the courts. All this could delay the elections by another two years," he alleged.

Civic bodies race to clear drains ahead of monsoon

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru North and East corporations on Tuesday reviewed monsoon preparedness in their jurisdictions during meetings with officials from various departments.

The meetings discussed the status of works underway, new tender processes, and cleaning of storm water drains.

North City Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar instructed officials to complete desilting works of all storm water drains and rajakaluves before the onset of the monsoon.

He said garbage and silt accumulation in drains were obstructing the smooth flow of rainwater and directed officials to take immediate action to prevent inconvenience.

During separate meetings, both commissioners also reviewed the maintenance of arterial and sub-arterial roads to ensure rainwater does not stagnate during the monsoon.

East City Commissioner DS Ramesh reviewed works taken up under various state government grants and budget allocations.

The meeting discussed maintenance of 35 km of storm water drains in Mahadevapura and 45 km in KR Puram zone. He directed engineers to ensure the drains are desilted four times a year and prepare a ward-wise maintenance plan. He warned that surprise inspections would be held.

Clean, desilt all manholes within 15 days: BWSSB chief

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) Chairman Ramprasat Manohar V has directed officials to clean and desilt all manholes in the city within 15 days.

Ramprasat Manohar V

Chairing a monsoon preparedness meeting on Tuesday, Manohar instructed officials to identify flood-prone areas across Bengaluru. "It is important to prioritise the desilting of manholes before the monsoon to prevent overflow. We should take all preventive measures to ensure the public is not inconvenienced," he said.

He also directed officials to personally inspect sewage lines and ensure that rainwater does not enter sewerage pipelines.

The BWSSB will form emergency operation teams under every corporation to ensure swift response and coordination during emergencies.

3 interstate burglars held; Rs 40-lakh loot recovered

BENGALURU, DHNS: KR Puram police arrested three interstate burglars allegedly involved in a house break-in and theft case, officials said.

The arrested are 36-year-old Mumbai resident Nagendra Sahani, a vegetable trader; 30-year-old Kailas Kedariya; and 29-year-old Gopal, cloth merchants from Rajasthan.

Police began the investigation after a resident of Anandapura lodged a complaint on February 20.

During the probe, police pursued multiple angles and gathered information from informants.

Police arrested two suspects in Rajasthan's Jalore.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to the offence and revealed that the stolen jewellery and silver articles had been kept at the cloth shop of an accomplice in Doddakannalli, Bellandur.

Police then arrested the third suspect from Uttar Pradesh's Mau district. He also confessed to his role in the theft, police said.

The stolen goods that was recovered by the police. PHOTO: BENGALURU POLICE

Between March 8 and 20, police recovered 196 grams of gold jewellery, 1 kg 756 grams of silver articles, and Rs 22,000 cash from the clothing shop in Doddakannalli, from an accomplice, and from the person to whom part of the stolen property had been sold. The recovered property is estimated to be worth Rs 40 lakh.

The three accused were produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody. Another accomplice remains absconding, police said.

DyCM turns attention to BDA's long-pending projects

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday reviewed several Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) projects, including the 74-km Bengaluru Business Corridor, the Peripheral Ring Road beyond the NICE Road loop, and the formation of the Shivaram Karanth Layout.

BDA Chairman NA Haris, Commissioner P Manivannan, Bengaluru Business Corridor Project Chairman LK Atheeq and other senior officials attended the meeting.

"Our government is committed to building world-class infrastructure that benefits people while safeguarding the interests and livelihoods of farmers and landowners," Shivakumar said in a post on X.

Several subjects came up for discussion during the closed-door meeting that went on for hours.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar at the review meeting in Bengaluru on Tuesday. BDA Chairman NA Haris, Commissioner P Manivannan, Bengaluru Business Corridor Project Chairman LK Atheeq and other senior officials were also present at the meeting. PHOTO: BDA

The BDA is yet to allot sites to farmers who gave up their land for the formation of the Karanth Layout. The authority is also planning to build a road between Hosur Road and Tumakuru Road via Kanakapura, running parallel to NICE Road. A Major Arterial Road connecting Mysuru Road and Magadi Road, ready for inauguration, also came up for discussion.

State's sixth guarantee

On Wednesday, Shivakumar is expected to announce a major scheme described as the state government's sixth guarantee.

This includes the disposal of 13 lakh e-khata certificates to property owners and a proposal to increase the permissible building deviation limit from 5% to 15%.

Three arrested for trying to sell deer antlers worth Rs 10 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru police arrested three people for allegedly trying to sell deer antlers, officials said.

The arrested are 29-year-old Moodalapalya resident Murali, a painter; 39-year-old Marenahalli resident Manjunath, a delivery boy; and 53-year-old Chikkasandra resident Kariyappa.

The arrests were made on May 9 after police received information that some people were trying to sell a horn of a wild animal near a college in Chikkabanavara.

After verifying the information, CCB officers registered a case under the Wildlife Protection Act at the Chikkabanavara police station. Officials raided the spot and arrested the trio.

One of the antlers seized by the police.

"When interrogated, they confessed to committing this act with the intention of making money," police said in a statement.

A prime suspect remains absconding.

Police valued the seized items at Rs 10 lakh. Further probe is underway.

COSTLY COMMUTE

Ride app auto fares climb sharply across city

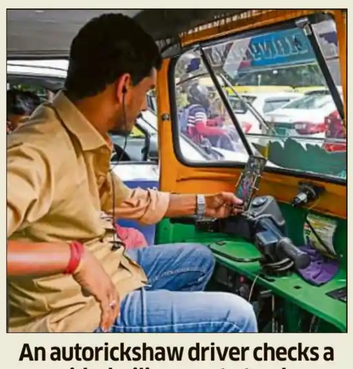
ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

While auto unions urge the government to raise the minimum fare to Rs 50 to offset rising LPG prices, commuters say ride aggregator platforms have already raised fares.

Many commuters said app-based auto fares are now 30 to 40% higher than regular rates.

"Lately, there has been no difference between the outrageous fares that auto drivers demand and the fares displayed on app aggregator platforms. A 9-km ride from Vasanthnagar to Koramangala, which usually costs around Rs 170, has been costing over Rs 250 for the past two weeks.

"That is a big jump, and I can feel its impact on my monthly budget," said 23-year-old marketing professional Vaishali M.



An autorickshaw driver checks a ride-hailing app to track a customer. DH FILE PHOTO

On Tuesday evening, the same ride cost Rs 263 on Rapido, Rs 217 on Ola, Rs 220 on Uber, and Rs 204 on Namma Yatri.

On Monday evening, the same platforms, except Ola, displayed fares between Rs 220 and Rs 260 for an 8-km ride from MG Road to RT Nagar, against the average fare of Rs 170 to Rs 180. Ola displayed a fare of Rs 157, but no autos were available at that price.

Users turn to AI tools

To cope with rising fares, commuters have started using AI tools and third-party platforms to compare rates across aggregators.

"I was so frustrated with constantly having three to four apps open in an attempt to book an auto that I turned to AI for help. After some digging, I came across this platform called 'Buyhatke', which provides a comprehensive list of fares across all platforms once you feed it the location. That has been very helpful," said 29-year-old IT employee Kanishk Jain.

He added that he recently paid Rs 260 for an auto ride from Basavanagudi to MG Road during non-peak hours.

A Rapido spokesperson said the gross fare had been increased by only 5% per kilometre, and called claims of a 30 to 40% hike inaccurate.

"This marginal change is primarily a temporary response to recent rains, which naturally impact demand and supply availability. These minor adjustments serve to compensate our drivers for the increased difficulty of operating in monsoon conditions while maintaining service reliability," he said.

Ola, Uber and Namma Yatri did not respond to queries.

PM's EV push may hurt LPG auto drivers: Transport body

The Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations met Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Tuesday and sought subsidies to help auto and cab drivers shift from LPG to CNG and electric vehicles.

"The recent push by Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards EV, public transport and carpooling will hurt the lives of drivers dependent on LPG. Drivers are ready to convert to CNG and EV. We urge both the central and state governments to provide subsidies to promote this change," said federation president S Nataraj Sharma.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

KJVS Bangalore Urban District Second Conference: Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao to attend; Karnataka Gyan Vigyan Samiti (Bangalore Urban District); Hotel Maurya Auditorium, Gandhinagar, Race Course Road; 10 am.

Vidwat-2026: Energy Minister KJ George to attend; Indian Academy Degree College, Hennur Main Road; 11.30 am.

'Parva-Varnotsava' College Anniversary: Surana College; 1 pm.

CULTURAL

Kannada play: 'Mukhyamantri', featuring Mukhyamantri Chandru; Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; 7.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Thunderstorm with rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	35.0°C
Minimum	23.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	38%
Sunset (May 13)	6:37 pm
Sunrise (May 14)	5:55 am
Moonrise	2:08 am
Moonset	2:22 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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State to have first-of-its-kind portal to automate electricity life cycle

Better financial discipline by dept to slash consumers' bills

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS:

The energy department is developing a first-of-a-kind centralised portal that will automate the entire electricity life cycle from production to consumption.

The portal will be integrated with various generation stations, transmission networks, distribution framework of electricity supply companies, besides power purchase and power-swapping agreements made.

"Some data will be updated on real-time basis and some others from existing database. This will help bring various bodies and resources of the energy department under one centralised system. This will improve transparency and prevent manual intervention as far as possible," said Gaurav Gupta, additional chief secretary, energy department.

This will streamline manual processes, including raising of bills and financial settlements, ensuring financial discipline that will eventually bring down power bills for consumers.

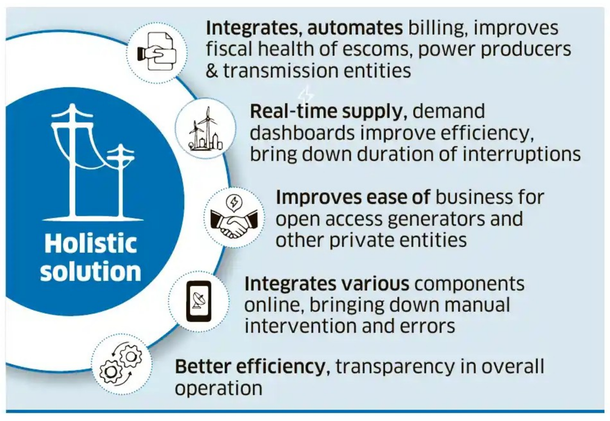
"Financial discipline helps improve financial health of Escoms, which will be passed on to consumers. Also, fast decision-making and improved transparency will bring down operational costs and this will also help bring down charges for consumers," a senior department official said.

The portal will provide real-time power generation and demand statistics along with multiple dashboards that will include details of generation, transmission and distribution. The availability of real-time data and centralised management system helps faster decision-making and will help bring down duration of power supply interruptions.

"Unlike what used to happen earlier, now, with the centralised portal, the generators will punch in generation capacity and escoms can update their demand. This can be monitored in real time and in case of increase in demand, a decision can be taken faster as generation capacities at various generators are already known. This helps cut down interruptions," said one of the developers working on the project.

The portal will help improve ease of business, making it easy for generators and other operators to work with the government through easy online registration.

Officials claimed this is the first time that such a portal is being developed in the country' power sector. The project is 80% complete and the portal is already operational. It is expected to be completely ready by June.


Holistic solution
Integrates, automates billing, improves fiscal health of escoms, power producers & transmission entities
Real-time supply, demand dashboards improve efficiency, bring down duration of interruptions
Improves ease of business for open access generators and other private entities
Integrates various components online, bringing down manual intervention and errors
Better efficiency, transparency in overall operation

Walkers, cyclists at centre of road planning in new Motor Vehicle rules

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka has introduced sweeping changes to its Motor Vehicles Rules, placing pedestrians and cyclists at the centre of road planning for the first time.

The new Karnataka Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 2026, notified on Tuesday, make it mandatory for all new road projects and upgrades to include facilities for non-motorised transport (NMT) users such as pedestrians and cyclists.

"All new road construction works and upgradation of existing roads shall incorporate facilities for non-motorised transport (NMT) users and pedestrians at the design stage itself, and shall be mandatorily included in the Detailed Project Reports (DPR) prepared for such projects," the rules state.

The new rules seek to address long-standing complaints over Karnataka's, and specifically Bengaluru's, vehicle-centric road designs that often leave little safe space for walkers and cyclists. Authorities have now been directed to prioritise footpaths, cycle tracks and pedestrian crossings while planning roads.

The notification also says pedestrian space cannot be reduced unless all alternatives, such as removing on-street parking or relocating utilities, are explored. Footpaths must remain obstruction-free and accessible for persons with disabilities.

The rules mandate pedestrian crossings every 150 metres in busy urban areas, while school zones will have stricter safety measures, including speed limits of 25 kmph on urban roads. Dedicated cycle tracks have also been made compulsory on arterial and sub-arterial roads where space permits.

As per the new directive, the government has empowered Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) and the district road safety committees to monitor implementation.

Elderly man charred to death after EV catches fire while charging

BENGALURU, DHNS: An elderly man was charred to death after an electric scooter allegedly caught fire while being charged at his house in Murphy Town in Halasuru in the early hours of Tuesday, officials said.

The victim, Lourd Nathan (65), was sleeping in a small room on the ground floor of his house where the EV had been kept for charging.

Around 3 am, the vehicle caught fire, triggering a blast and rapidly spreading flames through the room.

Family members sleeping on the first floor heard the explosion and rushed downstairs. They alerted the fire department, which sent a team to douse the flames, but Nathan had been charred to death by then, police said.

Police suspect that a battery malfunction or short circuit during charging may have triggered the blaze.

The EV is learnt to have been a locally assembled model purchased around two-and-a-half years ago for nearly Rs 10,000. The house also sustained damage in the fire.

Based on a complaint filed by Nathan's son, Halasuru police have registered a case. Nathan had earlier worked as an autorickshaw driver, but had recently quit due to health issues.

Karnataka to get 1,243 EV chargers under PM E-Drive scheme

BENGALURU, DHNS: Union Minister for Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy on Tuesday announced the approval of 1,243 new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for the state.

Supported by a financial outlay of Rs 123.26 crore under PM E-Drive scheme, the move solidifies Karnataka's position as a frontrunner in India's transition to sustainable transport.

Speaking at a national conference on 'Enabling Nationwide EV Charging Infrastructure,' Kumaraswamy highlighted the state's emergence as a pivotal charging hub. The approvals for Karnataka are part of a larger Rs 503.86 crore package cleared for 4,874 chargers in several states.

"The automotive sector contributes over 7% to India's GDP and supports 3 crore jobs. Our focus is on self-reliance through schemes like the Rs 18,100-crore PLI for battery cells and Rs 7,280-crore initiative for rare earth magnets," he said.

He unveiled plans for 'Unified Bharat e-Charge', an app to integrate discovery and payments for EV charging, similar to UPI model.

Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta said the state was the first to implement an EV policy in 2018. "Our EV penetration has reached 11%, with 13.65% recorded this April," he added.

The state currently boasts the highest number of charging stations in the country at 8,600. Bengaluru's power utility, Bescom, which serves as state nodal agency, has been instrumental in this growth. Gupta said Bescom is now testing second-life battery-backed solar charging stations notably near Kempegowda International Airport to reduce dependence on power grid.

While the growth in Bengaluru has been exponential, the state government is now pivoting toward uniform distribution. Under new PM E-Drive phase, Bescom has submitted proposals for 1,250 stations at government-owned locations, involving an expenditure of Rs 777 crore.

To facilitate this, Bescom has launched a land aggregator portal to help private investors identify viable locations and a single-window dashboard to fast-track power supply sanctions for new stations.

Telangana's special chief secretary, energy, Naveen Mittal; Kerala's additional chief secretary, power department, Puneeth Kumar; Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy; additional chief secretary Gaurav Gupta and additional secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries Hanif Qureshi, at a conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

Excise policy: Industry representatives urge govt to widen first 5 slabs by Rs 50

BENGALURU, DHNS: Excise Minister R B Timmapur on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting with heads of various distilleries and breweries at the Vidhana Soudha to address long-standing grievances and deliberate on the ongoing reform measures within the department.

The meeting came as the state government pushes for a digital overhaul to curb corruption and reduce red tape.

During the meeting, industry representatives raised concerns regarding licensing bottlenecks and operational hurdles. "We have placed two key requests before the government: widen the first five slabs by Rs 50, and permit inclusion of freight in our invoice, since the provision already exists in the Karnataka Excise Act," said a representative.

Timmapur assured the stakeholders that the government was committed to creating a more transparent ecosystem through systemic improvements.

"We have already initiated several reform measures to streamline the functioning of distilleries and breweries. The meeting was a platform to understand their ground-level challenges and demands," he stated.

The minister emphasised that these structural reforms aim to eliminate the influence of middlemen, an issue that has previously sparked political controversy and allegations from the opposition.

Senior officials, including Finance Department Secretary (Budget and Resources) P C Jaffer and Excise Commissioner R Venkatesh Kumar were present at the meeting.

Women to head B'luru guarantee committees

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has appointed five women Congress workers as chairpersons of the guarantee implementation committees in each of the municipalities in Bengaluru. Jaishambhavi (East), Roopadevi (West), Lavanya Narsimhamurthy (North), Jayashri Gowda (South) and Salma Taj (Central) have been appointed.

Delegation to meet Maharashtra govt

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: A high-level delegation, including the legislators of Belagavi, Vijayapura and Kalaburagi districts, will be taken to Maharashtra government to find a permanent solution to judicious utilisation of Bhima and Krishna river water, Indi MLA Yeshvantrayagouda Patil said on Tuesday.

Battery pack, wires, circuit board also found on PM's convoy route

No breakthrough yet in May 10 case involving explosives

BENGALURU, DHNS

A breakthrough remains elusive in the case involving explosives found along Prime Minister Narendra Modi's convoy route on the city's outskirts on May 10.

Investigators are particularly concerned that, along with two gelatin sticks, six incense sticks, a matchbox and cellophane tapes, a battery pack, wires and what appeared to be a circuit board were also found 20 feet off a mud road adjacent to the forested area close to Kanakapura Road.

"There is a blind spot with improper CCTV coverage where explosives were found. Nearby CCTV feed is being scoured to establish a timeline of the likely disposal of the explosives," one of the sources told *DH*.

Despite an intense probe by the Bengaluru south district police, no suspects have been arrested. A team from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrived in Bengaluru from Delhi and will assist the local police in the investigation. The NIA has not taken over the probe yet, sources said.

Multiple special teams are part of the investigation, each having distinct roles: checking CCTV footage, examining call records and location records, etc. However, no progress has been made yet. The seized explosives are also being forensically examined, they added.

Home Minister G Parameshwara said one person was arrested separately for making a hoax threat call. "A separate investigation is on regarding the recovered gelatin sticks. I have learned that the NIA intends to probe the incident. If that is so, they can probe it. There is generally high-level security, including from the state, when the prime minister's programme is involved," he told reporters.

When asked if the recovered explosives were linked to terror activities, he said only an investigation would reveal the truth. "Till the investigation is complete, we can't say anything," he said.

Asked about a timer being one of the seized items, the home minister said the police were examining it.

Kaggalipura police have registered the FIR under Section 4 (punishment for attempt to cause explosion, or for making or keeping explosive with intent to endanger life or property) of the Explosive Substances Act and Section 9B (punishment for certain offences) of the Explosives Act.

Battery packs, wires and circuit boards are among items seized by the police.

Stampede case: Event firm execs allowed to travel to Brazil

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday permitted two functionaries of DNA Entertainment Networks, named as accused in connection with the M Chinnaswamy Stadium Stampede case, to travel to Rio De Janeiro (Brazil) from June 1 to June 10.

Justice S R Krishna Kumar passed this conditional interim order after perusing the itinerary placed by petitioners, Sunil Matthew and Kiran Kumar S.

The petitioners contended that they are required to travel to Rio De Janeiro to attend international travel management events. They are functionaries of DNA Entertainment Networks, an event management firm, and were named as accused by the police.

The stampede took place on June 4, 2025, a day after Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) won its maiden IPL title, killing 11 people and injuring nearly 100.

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
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Pvt schools' body flays PM's call for online classes

BENGALURU, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's suggestion for online schooling has drawn criticism from the school managements and academia.

During a recent public address, Modi advised going for online schooling like the one that was in practice during the Covid pandemic.

Reacting to it, D Shashi Kumar, general secretary of the Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka, said, "We are still struggling to recover from the learning damage the online schooling has caused during the pandemic."

"For over 500 days, schools were shut during the Covid pandemic. The learning levels of the children have been severely affected. Schooling should always be in a physical mode and not online," he said.

He also felt that online schooling may work for higher education level and not for school kids.

Developmental eucationist V P Niranjanaradhya said, "Education is not just a passive process of delivering information in a textbook through an online screen."

"Education is a holistic process of social development, play, interaction with classmates, creativity and building human values."

He also pointed out that the screen addiction that happened during the Covid pandemic is still a big problem.

"Online classes for several days caused severe disabilities among kids, both physically and academically. We need to find solutions for them and not shift to online classes ever again," he added.

Two debt-ridden farmers end lives

MALAVALLI (MANDYA DIST), DHNS: Two debt-ridden farmers died by suicide on Tuesday. The deceased are K V Nandish (31) of Kandegala and Mahadevappa (52) of Hebbani.

Nandish had borrowed heavily from banks. After suffering losses in farming, he shifted to Bengaluru for a job. He was found hanging at his rented house in Kodigehalli, Bengaluru, 3 days ago.

In second incident, Mahadevappa, also a priest at a temple in Hebbani, ended his life by consuming pesticide. He had availed loans to cultivate his land. Distressed by crop loss, he took the extreme step.

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CHANGE OF NAME I, Shree Vaishnavi V, residing at No. 57/11, 123, ITPL Road, Opp: BSNL Office, Kundalahalli Bangalore-560037, have changed my name to VAISSHNAVI V vide affidavit dated 06-05-2026 before notary Yankoba, Bangalore. Henceforth I shall be called VAISSHNAVI V only

CHANGE OF NAME I, FARUQ UL AMIN, S/o.H.P.Mohamed Murthuza, R/at.No.29, 4th`Main, Opp.Maruthi Layout, BTM`1st`Stage, near Water`Tank Bangalore South Bengaluru-560029. have`changed my`Name`from MOHAMED MURTHUZA FARUQ UL AMIN to FARUQ UL AMIN vide`Affidavit dated-12.05.2026 sworn before`Notary Mohammed Hussain.K Bangalore-60.

CHANGE OF NAME I DIVYA NAIK and DIVYA ASHOK NAIK R/at Flat No 101, 8B Block, Provident Sunworth, Venkatapura, Kengeri, Bangalore-560060, hereby declare that the above names pertain to me only and name was entered DIVYA NAIK in my all educational records and DIVYA ASHOK NAIK in all other documents. Henceforth I shall be known as DIVYA ASHOK NAIK in future and all correspondence shall be made as DIVYA ASHOK NAIK vide affidavit dated 07-05-2026 before notary Ravi, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME I, NAVYA B P DEB, residing at No. Flat A 305, 3rd Floor, Lourdes Nest, 9th Cross, Manjunatha Layout, 3rd Phase, Basavanapura MN Road, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru-560036, have changed my name to NAVYA PRABHU vide affidavit dated 18-01-2025 before notary Jain Swarnamala, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called NAVYA PRABHU only

I, R.R.NIRANJAN R/a.Flat#106 A`Block 1st Floor,Mantri Alpyne,BSK 5th`Stage Uttarahalli Main`Road Bengaluru 560061 have`Changed`my minor Daughter's name`from SVASTII_N RAJA to SVASTII NIRANJAN_RAJA (DOB:20.7.2009) vide`affidavit dated:11.5.2026 before`Notary B.Gopalakrishna Bengaluru.

I, BEENA Roy, Beena Rai, Beena Ray W/O Late. Raghunatha Panicker born on 1/10/1954 residing at 28/29 Unnathi Chowdappa Layout, Doddabetahalli, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore 560097, have changed my name to Beena Panicker. affidavit dated 09/05/2026 at Bangalore.

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I, K. Sudhakar Reddy
No. 652, 11th Main, HAL 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560038, have lost my Property Document No. 833 and 834 (Bheemunipatnam Sub-Registrar Office, Andrapradesh) lost on 11-05-2026 at CMH Road, Bangalore
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Three drown in two separate incidents in Haveri district

HAVERI, DHNS: Two boys were among three who drowned while swimming in two separate incidents in Hangal taluk of the district on Tuesday.

Two siblings — Sachin Byathanal (12) and Srujan Byathanal (10) of Neeralagi village — drowned in a pond while visiting their grandparents house at Kanchinegaluru for vacations.

In another incident, Faizan (20), a native of Uttar Pradesh who ran a salon at Sammasagi village in Hangal taluk, drowned while swimming at Dharma canal near Shringeri village.

Assembly Speakers' panel holds meeting in Mysuru

MYSURU, DHNS: The committee of Legislative Assembly Speakers of six states, constituted by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to bring about uniformity in the Assembly proceedings of all states held its first meeting in Mysuru on Tuesday.

Karnataka Speaker UT Khader said that the first people's representatives (Assembly) meeting by Wadiyars held in Mysuru during March 1881 inspired the democratic and parliamentary system of governance, was held in Mysuru.

UT Khader

The committee, led by Uttar Pradesh Speaker Satish Mahana, includes Khader, Nagaland Speaker Sharingain Longkumer, Himachal Pradesh Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania, Delhi Speaker Vijender Gupta, and Maharashtra Speaker Rahul Narwekar.

Khader informed that they will hold meetings with the Speakers of all states and include their best practices in the report. They will submit a report within six months. After legal consideration, the new improvised rules will be framed. The next meeting will be held in New Delhi.

UP Speaker Satish Mahana said that the previous rules for Assembly proceedings were framed about 40 years ago. "There has been a significant change in the trend of these proceedings from the past 25 to 30 years, especially over the past five years. Based on the suggestions by the Speakers of all states, we plan to improvise the Assembly rules in the best interest of the people," he said.

NEET fiasco unsettles students; state revives demand to scrap it

'Coaching centres in Raj, Haryana behind paper leaks'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka reiterated its demand to scrap the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for medical admissions after the union government cancelled it on Tuesday, following a paper leak, which Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said would impact more than a lakh students in state.

"Students worked hard for months, while parents spent on coaching, travel and other expenses with the hope of a fair exam. In one stroke, the union government has pushed them back into uncertainty and distress," he said in a statement.

The CM said that his government had, in 2024, flagged that NEET was "unfair to rural, poor students" and that it "weakens school education," while snatching "rightful authority" of states over admissions.

"Today's cancellation proves that our concerns are real, urgent and rooted in the interests of students," he said.

"We demand a transparent, time-bound investigation, strict punishment for the guilty, immediate clarity on fresh exam schedule and restoration of states' authority to conduct such entrance exams," the chief minister said.

Siddaramaiah slammed the Modi administration for "a long series of paper leaks and exam failures," which he said had become "a recurring symbol of its failure to protect merit".

Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar said the union government should file an affidavit before the Supreme Court on its inability to conduct NEET.

"We've been conducting admissions to engineering courses without malpractices. The union government can hold a separate test for all-India quota," he said.

According to Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil, coaching centres in Rajasthan and Haryana were "actively orchestrating" paper leaks.

Security staff posted at a NEET centre frisk students appearing for the test held on May 3. DH FILE PHOTO

Can't blame Centre entirely: HDK

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy said the Centre cannot be blamed entirely over NEET fiasco and blasted the Congress for criticising the Modi adminsitration.

"We can't blame the government entirely for someone's mistake," he said. "Several such problems have been witnessed in the state under Congress governments. The state government isn't able to fix loopholes in Karnataka Public Service Commission, whose downfall started with Congress coming to power in 2013 and rates were fixed for every post," he charged.

Dharmendra Pradhan's resignaton sought

"Elements within the central government are complicit in this racket," he said, calling for Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation.

Gouri, a medical seat aspirant who wrote NEET on May 3, was expecting a good rank.

"We were relaxed and waiting for the result. Imagine how it must feel to be asked to write the test again," she said.

State to go ahead with engg seat allotment

The NEET usually leads to delay in allotment of engineering seats in the state. This year, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) wants to allot engineering seats without waiting for NEET re-exam results.

"Every year, NEET counselling schedule is affecting allotment of engineering seats," a KEA official said.

Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar said, "We're planning to commence engineering seat allotment as per schedule, instead of waiting for NEET".

Valmiki leaders urge CM to protect enhanced SC/ST quota

Approach apex court to get stay on increasing reservation percentage vacated

BENGALURU, DHNS

A forum of Valmiki leaders led by former MP V S Ugrappa, on Tuesday, urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take urgent legal and political measures to safeguard the law enhancing the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to 17% and 7% respectively.

The forum pointed out that SCs constitute 17.1% and STs 6.95% of Karnataka's population, adding that reservation in education and public employment must be proportional to their population.

Citing the report submitted by the Justice H N Nagamohan Das Commission, which had recommended enhancing reservation for SCs from 15 to 17% and for STs from 3% to 7%, the forum said that the recommendation had later been endorsed by Justice Subhash Adi Commission. The forum also pointed to the law enacted by the Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government, increasing total reservation in the state to 56%. The High Court's stay on increasing the total percentage of reservation had created a lot of uncertainty, besides dealing a severe blow to those in the SC/ST communities keen on seeing social justice served.

"The only permanent constitutional protection available for the legislation was inclusion in the ninth schedule of the Constitution," said the forum, urging Siddaramaiah to convene an all-party meeting and lead a delegation to meet the prime minister, seeking constitutional protection for the law.

The forum also sought immediate legal measures to get the High Court stay vacated by appointing experienced senior advocates and, if necessary, approaching the Supreme Court.

The forum also demanded strict action against individuals allegedly securing fake SC/ST caste certificates and against officials responsible for issuing such certificates.

BJP plans statewide campaign over reservation row

The BJP has decided to launch a statewide awareness campaign accusing the Congress government of diluting the enhanced reservation granted by the previous BJP government.

"The Congress government is now reverting to the earlier reservation structure while simultaneously retaining the amended law passed by us during the Belagavi session. The government informed the court that reservation would continue at 15% and 3% respectively for SCs and STs, even though the law providing enhanced quota remains in force," alleged former CM and Haveri MP Basavaraj Bommai, who chaired a meeting of BJP's SC and ST leaders.

Reshuffle vs CM change: Cong leaders expect clarity

'Decision likely after resolution of Kerala CM imbroglio'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Congress leaders said Tuesday that they expect the party's top brass to decide on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's continuation after the leadership imbroglio in Kerala is settled.

"Ours is case number two after the Kerala CM's selection is done. After the Kerala CM issue is resolved, they (high command) will pay attention to Karnataka. Let's wait for some more time," Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi said.

Siddaramaiah may visit New Delhi after the Kerala CM is finalised, Jarkiholi added.

Senior Congress lawmaker K N Rajanna said the "state of confusion" must be cleared. "If Siddaramaiah has to continue, he must be allowed to reshuffle his Cabinet. So long as he's not allowed to reshuffle his Cabinet, there will be uncertainty over his continuation," he said, adding that he expects "changes" in May.

According to party sources, while Siddaramaiah favours a Cabinet reshuffle, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar wants the party to decide on the leadership change first.

Ministerial aspirant and Magadi MLA H C Balakrishna said the Congress high command is likely to decide on the Cabinet reshuffle after Kerala. "Whether it is a leadership issue or a reshuffle, the high command should decide, and I'm confident that this will be resolved in May itself," he said.

According to several party insiders, if the Congress high command approves the Cabinet reshuffle, it would signal that the incumbent Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will complete the full five-year term, which will scuttle Shivakumar's chances of occupying the coveted post.

MLCs meet Surjewala, seek Cabinet berths

A group of Congress MLCs from Karnataka on Tuesday met party general secretary (Karnataka in-charge) Randeep Surjewala and pressed for an early clarification on the leadership issue in the state, reports DHNS from New Delhi.

The MLCs, including Madhu Madegowda, Basanagouda Badarli, Puttanna, T D Srinivas and Chandrashekhar Patil, met Surjewala and urged him to convey their concerns to the party high command. The legislators also requested that at least five Congress members from the Upper House be inducted into the Cabinet if a reshuffle takes place, sources said.

Surjewala assured the delegation that he would bring their plea to the notice of the party's top leadership, sources said.

Six gram panchayats from Karnataka win national awards

BENGALURU, DHNS

Six gram panchayats in Karnataka have won national awards under various categories, Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge said on Tuesday.

Out of 42 gram panchayats from across India selected for the National Panchayat Awards 2025, six are from Karnataka "making the state one of the top performers at the national level," Priyank said in a statement.

Priyank Kharge

"Among the six awards won by Karnataka, five were secured by Gram Panchayats from Udupi district, marking a remarkable achievement for the district," Priyank said.

Mudradi gram panchayat of Hebri taluk in Udupi secured the first prize in the "Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihoods" category and received a cash award of Rs 1 crore.

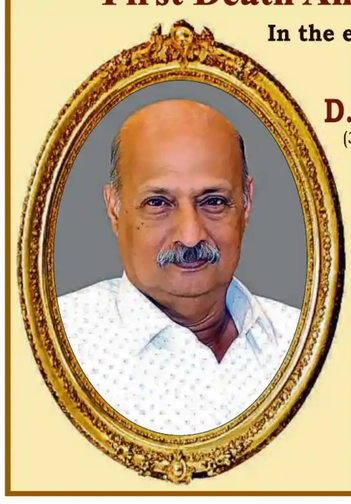
Vandse gram panchayat of Kundapura taluk (Udupi) won the second prize in the "Healthy Panchayat" category and received a cash award of Rs 75 lakh.

Halanayakanahalli gram panchayat in Bengaluru East won the second prize in the "Child-Friendly Panchayat" category and received 75 lakh as prize money.

Madamakki gram panchayat of Hebri taluk (Udupi) secured the second prize in the "Water-Sufficient Panchayat" category and received a cash award of Rs 75 lakh. Sanuru gram panchayat of Karkala taluk (Udupi) won the third prize in the "Self-Reliant Panchayat in Infrastructure" category and received Rs 25 lakh.

Hakladi gram panchayat of Kundapura taluk (Udupi) secured the third prize in the "Socially Just and Safe Panchayat" category and received a cash award of Rs 25 lakh.

First Death Anniversary



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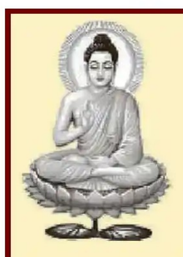

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Two boys enjoy cycling amid rains as skies open up in Davangere on Tuesday evening. DH PHOTO/SATISH BADIGER

Heavy rain, gusty winds lash N-K dists; tree fall hits train traffic in Belagavi

BENGALURU, DHNS: Heavy rains, coupled with thunder and lightning and gusty winds, lashed several districts of Kittur Karnataka region, including Uttara Kannada, Belagavi and Dharwad districts, on Tuesday . The thundershowers brought down huge trees and electricity poles, affecting road and rail traffic and power supply in Belagavi and Uttara Kannada districts.

Movement of several trains, including Kolhapur-Tirupati Haripriya Express, was affected following a tree fall on the tracks between Nagargali-Tavargatti railway stations in Khanapur taluk. The rail service between Alnavar and Londa route was hit badly. The Rani Chennamma Express that runs between Sangli and Bengaluru and the Belagavi-Mysuru Express train were stopped in Londa and Khanapur railway stations, respectively.

The train service resumed after clearing the debris and fallen tree. Khanapur taluk and surrounding areas received heavy rain, accompanied by high-intensity winds.

Hubballi-Dharwad twin cities, Kalaghatagi, Kundgol and Alnavar experienced thundershowers in the evening. The showers gave a much-needed respite from scorching sun in Kittur Karnataka region.

The coastal and Malnad parts of Uttara Kannada received sharp showers, coupled with heightened thunder activity. The showers turned Sadashivgad-Aurad state highway and Sirsi-Haveri national highway slushy, giving commuters a torrid time.

The Monday night showers have brought down hundreds of areca trees and several banana plantations in many parts of Davangere district, including Mayakonda. A massive tree uprooted following heavy rain and gusty winds near Napoklu in Kodagu district late on Tuesday evening.

HC quashes Kundapur man's detention under Goonda Act, cites 'non-application of mind'

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed the detention of a Kundapur native under the Goonda Act, citing non-application of mind by the authorities.

A division bench of Justices Anu Sivaraman and Tara Vitasta Ganju observed that the detaining authority did not notice that in the majority of cases, the detenue has either been acquitted or ended in compromise.

On July 10, 2025, the Udupi deputy commissioner passed an order to detain Huseen Kabeer, a resident of Kalavara village, under the Karnataka Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drugs Offenders, Gamblers, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offences, Slum-Grabbers, and Video/Audio Pirates Act - popularly known as the Goonda Act.

Grounds of detention

Kabeer's wife Dilshad filed a petition challenging the order, contending that while the grounds of detention show he was involved in 17 cases, he was acquitted in most of them and convicted only in one.

Most cases ended in detenue's acquittal or compromise, court notes

The detention order does not refer to these details, her petition stated.

After perusing the materials, the bench noted that an examination of the detention order reflects that Kabeer was acquitted in more than 50% of the cases, while three cases ended in compromise.

It further noted that the majority of offences against Kabeer relate to the theft of Jersey cows and illegal cattle transportation.

The bench further noted that the order referencing Section 3 (1) of the Act states that Kabeer be detained at the Central Prison in Mysuru, without mentioning any grounds under Section 2 regarding the type of offence committed.

Serious lapse

The bench cited the High Court of Karnataka order in Prema vs State of Karnataka and Others, which held that failing to specifically mention the grounds of detention constitutes a serious lapse by the detaining authority, indicating a clear non-application of mind.

"In addition, in the statement of objections filed by the state, it is not denied that the detention order has not set out the relevant provision. The Supreme Court in the case of Mortuza Hussain Choudhary vs State of Nagaland and Others has held that the satisfaction of the detaining authority has to be set out after application of mind and cannot be by a casual reference or a bald recital," the bench said.

Rs 2.55 cr an acre: Bidadi...

Bidadi, From Page 1

Developed residential land is the second option which involves providing 50% of the developed residential land back to the land losers.

On top of that, the GBDA has also fixed compensation for trees, which is Rs 25,000 per coconut tree, Rs 45,000 for a mango tree and Rs 6,000 for an arecanut tree. It is also working on a rehabilitation and resettlement package, which includes providing free houses, rental houses, exemption from tax and registration among others.

It has also offered to help farmers in sourcing property documents such as RTCs, survey numbers, pahanis and encumbrance certificates instead of passing the burden on them.

In all, the township, estimated to cost Rs 18,333 crore, will come up across nine villages in the outskirts of Bengaluru South. While the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will provide Rs 3,000 as seed fund, the GBDA will raise about Rs 9,000 crore as loan from HUDCO, a central government undertaking.

The project has seen stiff opposition from farmers.

Yashwavantha T, state general secretary of Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha, said farmers were opposing the township as it was planned on well-irrigated lands. "Not even an inch of land is dry. What is the necessity of urbanising the most fertile land? The notified land has an abundance of water. Farmers cultivate all kinds of crops including fruits and vegetables. The government should shift the township elsewhere," he said.

Recently, JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda said he was backing the protesters, calling their concerns genuine.

However, Deputy CM D K Shivakumar has backed the project, stating that the notification for the township was issued when H D Kumaraswamy was the chief minister.

Of the total township, the GBDA has planned to earmark about 1,800 acres for residential layouts and 5,681 acres will have large single plots where commercial development is proposed.

RTC staff get 12.5% hike in basic pay, but unions to go ahead with strike

Employees insist on 25% pay hike from January 1, 2024

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka on Tuesday announced a 12.5% hike in basic pay for the 1.05 lakh employees and officers of the state's four bus corporations, with effect from April 1, 2025.

The government will start paying the revised salaries from July 1, 2026. However, due to the corporations' liabilities of Rs 7,130.8 crore, arrears for April 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, will be paid in phases depending on "the financial condition" of the KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC, KKRTC and employees of Karnataka Implement and Machinery Company (KIMCO), which merged into the KSRTC.

The revised pay structure will remain in force until March 31, 2029. Due to this pay revision, the corporations will incur an additional expenditure of Rs 72.80 crore per month and Rs 873.64 crore annually.

RTC employees previously received a 15% hike from March 1, 2023, after a 38-month delay from January 1, 2020. The government initially promised to pay Rs 1,785 crore in arrears for 38 months

The government will start paying the revised salaries from July 1, 2026. DH FILE PHOTO

(January 1, 2020, to February 28, 2023), but eventually agreed to pay only Rs 1,271.92 crore for 26 months, declining arrears for the year 2020 due to Covid. Of Rs 1,271.92 crore, the government has paid Rs 450 crore.

The government initially announced a 7% pay hike from January 1, 2024, but announced 12.5% from April 1, 2025.

'Unilteral' decison

The Joint Action Committee of the Trade Unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, which represents six employees' union, rejected the "unilateral" hike and vowed to go ahead with its indefinite bus strike from May 20.

The committee has stuck to its demand for a 25% pay hike from January 1, 2024 — in line with the 27.5% hike granted to other government employees under the 7th Pay Commission — and Rs 1,785 crore in arrears for 38 months.

D A Vijaya Bhaskar, general secretary, KSRTC Staff and Workers' Federation, slammed the "unilateral" decision.

According to him, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy had stated at a meeting on April 29 that the 7% offer is not final but said that 25% was not possible either.

"We asked him to call a meeting and hold discussions. He agreed but the government has now unilaterally announced the hike, which is only 12.5%. Employees will also not get arrears from January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. This is unacceptable. We will formally raise objections in a letter to the chief minister and our indefinite strike from May 20 will go on," he said.

NEET-UG cancelled...

NEET, From Page 1

"This decision has been taken in the interest of students and in recognition of the trust on which the national examination system rests. The agency is conscious that re-examination will cause real and significant inconvenience to candidates and their families. The decision has been taken because the alternative would have caused greater and more lasting damage to that trust," the NTA said.

Singh said that the date of re-examination will be announced soon. "I will sit with my team and work out the dates and a schedule, so that the academic calendar and admission schedule of medical colleges are not affected," he said.

The move comes after allegations of a paper leak days after the examination. The Rajasthan Special Operations Group (SOG) reportedly found a handwritten set of questions with approximately 90 Biology and 30 Chemistry questions bearing close similarities to the actual NEET-UG paper.

Investigators are examining whether the breach originated at a printing facility in Jaipur and spread to multiple cities. At least 15 individuals have been questioned so far.

The NTA said existing registration data, candidature records, and examination centres from the May 2026 cycle would be carried forward to the re-conducted examination, with no fresh registration required and no additional fee to be levied. Fees already paid will be refunded, and the re-exam will be conducted using the agency's internal resources.

The agency urged candidates and parents to rely solely on official NTA channels for updates.

West Asia crisis a balance of payments stress test, says CEA

West Asia, From Page 1

"Managing the current account credibly, financing it, and preventing further currency depreciation are the central macroeconomic imperatives of FY27," Nageswaran said, adding that India's macroeconomic foundations, the fiscal consolidation path, infrastructure investment, and reform record, provide a base from which the country can navigate this environment effectively.

The West Asia crisis is likely to widen India's current account deficit (CAD) and lead to a weaker balance of payments (BoP).

As per various estimates, India's CAD, which happens when a country's total imports of goods and services exceed its total exports and income receipts from abroad, is likely to rise to about 1.3% of GDP from about 0.8% in FY26.

BoP is the difference between inflow into and outflow from the country in a particular period of time. The rupee has hit a record low of 95.63 to a dollar on Tuesday.

Speaking at the CII session, Nageswaran said India's fiscal consolidation path, infrastructure investment, and the reform record of recent years provide the foundation, but the strategic context demands more than sound macro-management. "It demands a rethinking of how we position ourselves in a structurally altered world," he said.

Noting that currently, the world is "geopolitically contested and dotted with active conflicts", Nageswaran said emerging economies that continue to plan on the assumption that the pre-2020 global economic architecture will reassert itself will be making a "strategic error".

Nageswaran said geo-economic fragmentation, technology bifurcation, the permanent repricing of geo-political risks, and the uneven cost of an industrial policy transition are the structural parameters within which economic policy will be made for the foreseeable future.

"India, given its scale, democratic legitimacy, and the breadth of relationships, is better placed than most to help shape what comes next," he said, adding that what is also required is the strategic clarity to recognise that it is only a limited time window to reposition trade relationships, technology partnerships, supply chain architecture, and the coalition building that will shape the next international economic order.

Nageswaran noted that four structural shifts are imperative for emerging economies going forward. The first is geoeconomic fragmentation, trade wars, strategic decoupling and an expanding architecture of export controls and sanctions. Supply chains built over decades for efficiency are now being rebuilt for resilience.

The second is technology bifurcation, semiconductor supply chains, digital infrastructure and standard architectures are splitting between competing technological ecosystems.

The third is the energy transition premium, and the fourth structural shift is the permanent repricing of geopolitical risk across every market that matters.

Over 700 state cops suspended...

Suspended, From Page 1

The suspension list includes seven deputy superintendents of police (DySPs), 61 police inspectors, 75 police sub-inspectors, 73 assistant sub-inspectors, 231 head constables and 266 constables.

Senior police officers said several personnel were accused of demanding bribes from both complainants and accused persons for favours such as removing names from complaints, securing warrants, releasing seized vehicles, deleting names from rowdy-sheeter lists and helping those involved in ganja, cricket betting and gambling cases.

Officials also stated that some personnel were indirectly linked to murder cases and other serious crimes.

"When the fear of law diminishes, involvement in anti-social activities tends to rise. This emboldens the policemen to engage in criminal acts, often under the belief that they can escape without being caught. However, once apprehended, many regret committing the crime," said former state intelligence chief Gopal Hosur

A former DGP said the lure of a lavish lifestyle and a materialistic world lands some in trouble.

"It is nothing but greed. Forgetting that they have the opportunity to serve the public in a meaningful way, some officials indulge in illegal activities and invite trouble," he added.

More than 50 police officers are reportedly facing allegations related to sexual harassment, illegal detention, delay in registering FIRs, failure to act against accused persons, facilitating fake passports and manipulating rowdy-sheeter records.

Reacting to the issue, Hubballi-Dharwad police commissioner N Shashikumar said that although the percentage of police personnel involved in criminal activities was very low (0.1%) compared to the total strength of the force, such incidents had tarnished the image of the department.

"The department has been taking strict action against personnel whose names surface in criminal cases. There is no question of shielding anyone. In Hubballi-Dharwad twin cities too, police officials involved in assault and suicide-related cases have been suspended," he said.

AIADMK suffers vertical sp lit...

AIADMK, From Page 1

The rebel faction received a boost when Vijay drove to the office of Shanmugam to meet them as part of his "courtesy call" being extended to senior leaders. However, Vijay did not meet AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, who turned 72 today.

It is unclear as to how the rebel MLAs, whose number is about 24 of the 47 legislators who won on AIADMK tickets, will extend their support to the TVK — whether they will abstain from the trust vote on Wednesday or vote in favour of the government.

It is said that Vijay is unlikely to get the MLAs' support immediately, as it might sully his image and embarrass "secular forces" like the Congress, Left, VCK, and IUML that have extended support to his government.

The rebel MLAs said Palaniswami has lost their trust after he declared that he would like to become the chief minister with DMK's support last week.

"We were shocked to hear such a statement from him as we have been fighting the DMK for 50 years. How can he even say that?" Shanmugam told reporters. He said S P Velumani has been elected as the Legislature Party leader and G Hari as his deputy.

Velumani, who was one of the close aides of EPS ever since he became the chief minister in 2017, expressed no confidence on Palaniswami and asked him to convene the General Council meeting at the earliest to discuss the future course of action.

"We don't want the AIADMK to split. We want the party to be united and that is why we are asking for the GC to be convened," Velumani said.

The rebel group is also backed by legislator Leema Rose, wife of lottery baron Santiago Martin and mother-in-law of TVK minister Aadhav Arjuna.

The MLAs want to usher in a new generation of leadership with Shanmugam, Velumani, and Vijayabaskar at the helm. They feel such an arrangement will augur well for the party as they belong to 3 dominant communities — Vanniyars, Gounders, and Mukulathors.

Palaniswami has been under pressure from the rebel legislators to quit and make way for other leaders ever since AIADMK was relegated to the third position in the elections, but he continues to resist their demand.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast May 13: Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	35.2	22.8	1.7
Bidar	41	25.4	00
Vijayapura	40	25	00
Dharwad	36.6	22.6	00
Haveri	38	20	30
Kalaburagi	41.4	28.2	00
Raichur	39	24.8	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	34.6	26.5	00
Karwar	36.5	27	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	34.7	28.5	TR

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	32.1	23.3	00
Bengaluru	34.5	23.4	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	36.4	22.6	0.2
Davangere	35.5	21.8	00
Hassan	NA	NA	NA
Mysuru	34.4	22	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	34	20.6	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	37.5	27.6	00
Kolkata	34	26	0.1
Mumbai	35.8	27	00
Chennai	34.7	27.2	00
Pune	41.6	26.3	00
Hyderabad	38.7	26.4	00
Th'puram	33.9	26.5	00

Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences Madikeri
Government of Karnataka - Autonomous Institution
Ph-08272-298220 Website: www.kimskodagu.karnataka.gov.in
No: DME/2025-26/SE0661/CALL-2 Date: 11-05-2026
Re-Tender Notification
Under Signed invites e-tender notification in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal https:kppp.karanataka.gov.in GOK, for OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CARDIAC FACILITY ESTABLISHED IN KODAGU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, MADIKERI ON PPP MODE last date for upload is 25-05-2026 for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.
Sd/- **Director and Dean KoIMS Madikeri**

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)
BESCOM invites tender against **Enquiry No: BESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT1089** for Replacement of existing LT Overhead line (2/4 ACSR) using AB Cable in Kudur O&M Section of Kudur Sub Division of Magadi Division BESCOM.
Bid documents available on: **13.05.2026 onwards.** Last date for bid submission: **30 days from the date of Publication.** Opening of bid document: **31st day from the date of Publication.**
The Tender can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal web-site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Aspiring Bidders need to register on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with Karnataka Public Procurement Portal helpdesk contact numbers (+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP
Sd/- **Chief General Manager, Ele., Procurement, BESCOM. Bengaluru - 560 001.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU
Ref :PWD:MD:TND:(36E): 2026-27:JE-1: Dated: 11.05.2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION- 3rd CALL
(Karnataka Public E-Procurement Portal)
The Executive Engineer, PWD, Division. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under K.P.P Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTPP Act Indent No: 30116 (3rd Call) (Est.Amount Rs.400.00 Lakhs) **under the Head of Account 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District Roads and Improvements.** The Last date for reciept of tender: **26.05.2026** upto 17.00 Hours.
Tenders for the above works are invited as per the Standard Tender Document – KW4. Further details such as value of work, amount put to tender, EMD etc., can be accessed on the KPP Portal at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further, for more details can contact O/o, Case Worker, Executive Engineer's Office, PWD, Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru during official working hours. Contact No: 0824-2423169.
Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
DIPR/DK/KSMCA/193/26-27 dt.12.05.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.
Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979 &Endst. No.MCI-37(1)(Recog.-18)(UG)/2017-Med./109629,Dt: 06/05/2019
DIRECTOR: 8147796529 PRINCIPAL :8147796527
CAO:8147796526 PA : 8147796539.
e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com, website : https://vims.karnataka.gov.inprincipalbmcrcballari@gmail.com
NO. BMCRC/SUP/TEND/ Store Insurance /2026-27/ Date:
Expression of Interest
Tender is invited from the eligible bidders to provide Competitive rates to cover Insurance for the Items, stored in Central Store, Sub Store MCH/ Drugs Store at TCC/ Drugs Dispensary at Super Specialty/ Drugs Dispensary at TB Hospital, the items like Drugs, Reagents, Kits, Surgical & Disposables, Miscellaneous Items (Cleaning & Sanitation, Electrical & Stationary Item) and building total value 12,59,12,080/- Stored in central store, BMCRC, Ballari. Interested Insurance companies/Bankers can Inspect the stored places shall submit the competitive rates on or before 18.05.2026 @ 05.00pm to this office through post or e-mail Id: directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com. The items required for Insurance published in this Institute website: https://bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/130

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052. Email: bswmlee4@gmail.com
No. DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/02/26-27 Date: 12.05.2026
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK KPPP Only)
The Deputy General Manager-3, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the Project management consultancy services for the work mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per standard bid document. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sl No.	Name of the work	Construction Cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration (Including Monsoon)	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Appointment of PMC for the work of Odour Abatement and Peripheral Infrastructure works around Chikkanagamanagala Processing Plant in Anekal Constituency, including enzyme spraying and allied improvement works.	4002.01	12 Months	80,000/-
2	Appointment of PMC for the work of Bio -enzyme based odour suppression and site improvement works in and around 5 processing plants in Yeshwanthapura constituency including allied infrastructure and operational support works.	7205.00	12 Months	1,44,100/-
3	Appointment of PMC for the work of Bio-Enzyme based Odour Suppression and Basic infrastructure development works in and around MSGP processing plants in Doddaballapura Constituency.	823.74	11 Months	16,475/-
4	Appointment of PMC for the work of Inert landfill area protection and nuisance reduction works in and around Hullahalli inert landfill site in Bengaluru South Constituency, including enzyme spraying, safety measures and allied basic infrastructure works	1600.97	9 Months	32,000/-
5	Appointment of PMC for the work of Mitigation of fly infestation, protection of public health and development of basic infrastructure in nearby villages around five processing plants in Yeshwanthapura assembly constituency	5604.00	11 Months	1,12,000/-

Calendar of Events: 1. Pre bid Meeting: **21.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs at the office of CE & CGM (Tech)-2,** BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru. **2.** Last date for submission of the bids: **29.05.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs. 3.** Date of opening of Technical bid on: **30.05.2026 at 16.30 Hrs. 4.** Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.
Sd/- Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/AAA/627/2026-27

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager - 2, BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.
No. DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/04/2026-27 Date: 12.05.2026
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPP Portal) **website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only**
The Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of The Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the **PRE QUALIFICATION FOR THE WORK** detailed in the table below. RFP documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka Procurement **website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in .** Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put tender (₹ in Lakhs) Excluding GST	Stipulated Period of Contract
1.	Storm Water Drain from Kannur - Chikkagubbi-Doddagubbi-Rampura Lake-Yelemale Chatty lake and Culverts approach Roads.	8005.49	11 Months

1. Pre bid meeting will be held on 21.05.2026 at 15:00 hours in office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road,Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
2. Technical Documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document on or before 16:00 hours of 30.05.2026.
3. The Technical bid will be opened through kpp-portal only on 01.06.2026 after 16:30 hours at the stipulated venue. Through KPP Portal in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend the opening process. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
4. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidders. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the KPP Portal for the latest information related to the bids, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com**. KPP Pportal help desk telephone numbers are: **080-22371090/22373788.** The bidders is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the bids. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP Portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
5. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

DIPR/CP/RO623/AAPL/2026-27
Sd/- Deputy General Manager -2, BSWML.

'Crime against youth': NEET fiasco sparks outrage

Opposition slams Modi govt; Kejriwal urges students to agitate

NEW DELHI, DHNS & PTI

The cancellation of the NEET-UG examination over a paper leak triggered nationwide outrage, with the Opposition terming it a "crime against the future of the youth".

There was shock, frustration and anger among NEET aspirants, parents and coaching teachers across the country, with students raising questions over the National Testing Agency's (NTA) competence and demanding that the exam be conducted by AIIMS-Delhi.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'amrit kaal' has turned into a 'vish kaal' for the country.

While student organisations NSUI and SFI hit the streets demanding action against the culprits, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal urged affected students to launch mass protests, alleging that the government only responds to agitation and that the culprits enjoy "political patronage".

In a post on X, Rahul said the "hard work, sacrifices, and dreams" of more than 22 lakh students had been crushed by the "corrupt" BJP regime.

NSUI members stage a demonstration against the NTA over alleged paper leak and subsequent cancellation of the NEET-UG 2026 examination in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

"Some fathers took loans, some mothers sold their jewellery, lakhs of children stayed up all night studying, and in return, they got paper leaks, government negligence, and organised corruption in education. This is not just a failure—it's a crime against the future of the youth," he said.

"Every time, the paper mafia gets away scot-free, while honest students bear the punishment. Now, lakhs of students will once again endure the same mental stress, financial burden, and uncertainty," he said.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, in a report, had noted that five of the 14 national examinations conducted by the NTA in 2024 were marred by paper leaks and irregularities.

Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said the NEET episode is "only the latest in a series of instances which throw a question mark on the purpose and efficacy" of the NTA.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav questioned the credibility of the examination and asked what guarantee there was that papers would not be leaked again if the test were re-conducted.

Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member Sagarika Ghose said the cancellation had thrown the lives of lakhs of students into "disarray and anxiety".

RJD national working president Tejashwi Yadav slammed the Centre and said the future of 23 lakh students "has once again been toyed with", while the CPM demanded the immediate disbanding of the NTA.

What students should know

The cancellation of NEET has left over 22 lakh medical aspirants and their families anxious about the next steps. While NTA is yet to issue detailed guidelines, here are a few points that students should know:

- Fresh dates have not been announced. However, NTA director general has said the schedule for the re-examination will be announced in the "next seven to 10 days".
- NTA has clarified that the registration data and candidature from the May cycle will be carried forward.
- No additional fee will be charged.
- NTA has said the "re-issued admit-card schedule" will be communicated through official channels.
- NTA has said the examination centres opted for in the May 2026 cycle will be carried forward. However, it has not yet clarified whether there could be any changes in centre allotment.
- Candidates and parents have been advised to rely on official NTA channels for updates regarding re-examination dates and examination-related instructions. The agency has also asked students to disregard unverified reports circulating on social media.

Source: PTI

CBI takes custody of Nashik man in NEET paper leak case

MUMBAI, DHNS & PTI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday evening took into its custody a person from Nashik in Maharashtra in connection with the alleged NEET paper leak, an official said.

Earlier in the day, the crime branch unit 2 of Nashik Police detained Shubham Khairnar (30), who is reportedly pursuing BAMS degree.

DCP Kiran Kumar Chauhan said the accused was detained around noon after receiving a request from Rajasthan Police.

According to investigations by the Rajasthan Special Operations Group, the 'guess paper' may have leaked from the government printing press in Nashik, and was used in Haryana or Rajasthan.

Khairnar's father Dr. Madhukar Khairnar denied the charges. "Our son is innocent. For the past six months, he has been practising BAMS in Nashik. He has absolutely no connection to this case... a thorough inquiry should be conducted," he said.

SC quashes 35-yr-old case, slams delays

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

TRIAL TANGLE

- The Supreme Court directs Allahabad High Court to file state-wide data on judicial delays
- Top court says speedy trial is fundamental constitutional guarantee
- Flags judicial vacancies, undertrial crisis in UP
- Judgment seen as milestone on prosecutorial delay

In a landmark judgment and a scathing indictment of delay in India's criminal justice system, the Supreme Court on Tuesday quashed a 35-year-old criminal case pending before the Court of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (Railway), Prayagraj, observing that the constitutional guarantee of a speedy trial under Article 21 cannot be allowed to become a "mere platitude".

The court also expanded the proceedings into a wider judicial examination of criminal pendency, undertrial incarceration and judicial vacancies in Uttar Pradesh.

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and Ujjal Bhuyan, after hearing advocates Rajesh G Inamdar and Shashwat Anand, appearing for senior police officer Kailash Chandra Kapri, allowed his plea and set aside the Allahabad HC's refusal to quash proceedings pending since 1991 arising out of an FIR registered in 1989 at GRP Rambagh Police Station, Prayagraj (Allahabad).

The court observed that "35 years for a trial for simple hurt and criminal intimidation is too long a time" and that keeping a person in "suspended animation" for decades violates Article 21 of the Constitution.

"The prosecution should not be allowed to become a persecution," it said.

The case originated from an FIR lodged in 1989, alleging that five police constables posted for Kumbh Mela duty assaulted another constable in a police mess following a trivial dispute over food. The SC noted that the appellant was only 22 years old when the FIR was registered and is now 59.

The SC said two co-accused had died during the pendency of proceedings, while the other two were acquitted in 2023 after the prosecution failed to examine even a single witness.

In unusually strong observations directed at the justice delivery system itself, the SC remarked that despite decades of judicial pronouncements and guidelines, little has changed on the ground.

The ruling is expected to become a milestone and precedent in cases involving extraordinary prosecutorial delay.

TVK MLA moves top court against Madras HC order

NEW DELHI, DHNS: TVK MLA R Seenivasa Sethupathi on Tuesday approached the Supreme Court against a Madras High Court order that restrained him from participating in any floor test in the Tamil Assembly.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi mentioned the matter for urgent listing before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

The apex court agreed to hear the plea on Wednesday.

Sethupathi won the Tiruppattur Assembly seat in Sivaganga district by a razor-thin margin of just one vote against DMK leader and former minister K R Periakaruppan.

Mother tongue fortifies conceptual ability, says SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the ability to understand and be understood in one's own language is not a matter of convenience, but a matter of existential rights as it directed the Rajasthan government to formulate a comprehensive policy to recognise and promote Rajasthani as a medium of instruction in schools.

The court emphasised that instruction in the mother language, or a language of choice, fortifies the learner's conceptual clarity, ensures deeper cognitive engagement, and secures the constitutional promise of meaningful access to knowledge.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta directed the Rajasthan government to formulate an appropriate and comprehensive policy for the effective implementation of the constitutional mandate relating to mother tongue-based education, particularly in the backdrop of the National Education Policy, 2020.

The bench said the ability to understand and be understood in one's own language is not a matter of convenience, but a matter of existential rights, for comprehension must necessarily precede meaningful participation in society and day-to-day life activities.

In its verdict on a plea by Padam Mehta and another, the bench directed the state to take necessary measures to recognise and accord due status to Rajasthani language.

India attacks China after it confirms help to Pak

NEW DELHI, DHNS: After China recently confirmed that it had provided on-site technical support to Pakistan during the cross-border military flare-up with India in May 2025, New Delhi hit out at Beijing on Tuesday.

India tacitly suggested that China should reflect on whether it should help protect the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan.

Zhang Heng, an engineer from the Aviation Industry Corporation of China's (AVIC) Chengdu Aircraft Design and Research Institute, recently confirmed during an interview that he had provided on-site technical support to the armed forces of Pakistan.

"It is for nations who consider themselves responsible to reflect whether supporting attempts to protect terrorist infrastructure affects their reputation and standing," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

The Pakistan Air Force had used the fighter jets procured from China to respond to the aerial strikes by India following the Pahalgam attack.

"We have seen these reports that corroborate what was known earlier," Jaiswal said in response to a question on the SCMP report on Zhang's interview.

"Operation Sindoor was a precise, targeted and calibrated response to the terrorist attacks in Pahalgam, aimed at destroying the state-sponsored terrorist infrastructure operating out of Pakistan and at its behest."

The officials of the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force had earlier confirmed that Pakistan had fired PL-15 missiles made in China at targets in India. China also purportedly provided satellite support to Pakistan to choose targets in India and to neutralise India's counterattacks.

Avenues

UDUPI COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
Malpe, Karnataka
Wholly Owned subsidiary of Cochin Shipyard Limited
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India.
Ref No. UCSL/IMS/HR/VN/F/11-AGM-CC, DM(Qc,Pnt,Dsn,Cc)/76 dated 20 April 2026
RECRUITMENT
EXECUTIVES ON PERMANENT BASIS

Sl. No	Name of Posts	No. of Posts
01	Assistant General Manager (Contract Cell)	01 Post
02	Deputy Manager (Quality Control)	02 Posts
03	Deputy Manager (Painting)	01 Post
04	Deputy Manager (Contract Cell)	01 Post
05	Deputy Manager (Machinery Design)	01 Post
06	Deputy Manager (Electrical Design)	01 Post

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Last date for Application: 19 May 2026.
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After assurances, the burden of austerity

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually declared a fuel and foreign exchange emergency with his appeal to the people to adopt various austerity measures. Even as there is general agreement on the need to cut down the import of goods involving foreign exchange outgo, questions remain about the ethics and timing of this call. The fuel crisis is not this week's development; it stems from over two months of disruptions in the supply of crude, LPG, and other petroleum products, triggered by the war in West Asia. Despite the crunch, the government did not increase the price of petroleum products, except commercial LPG, because of political interests in play – Assembly elections were on in four states and a Union Territory. This exhortation may also be questioned because the Prime Minister held multiple roadshows with hundreds of vehicles in recent weeks, and one even after he listed out the measures for the citizens to adopt. The double standards cannot be ignored.

The Prime Minister has asked citizens to work from home, use public transport, avoid unnecessary foreign travel, and postpone purchasing gold. The call for a "civic *satyagraha*" is evocative but masks inconvenient questions. The Union government has, till now, been assuring the country that there is no need for concern over the fuel situation or the economy. It claimed that 70% of India's crude imports did not pass through the Strait of Hormuz, and that the energy supply was secure. Yet, it now appears that the government is preparing people for a crisis it failed to anticipate or warn against. Modi has invoked the pandemic situation to support his appeal. Some of his suggestions are likely to have serious implications for the economy and people's lives and livelihoods. A break in the use of chemical fertilisers, for instance, can cause crop yields to fall, given that agriculture is also likely to be impacted by a less-than-normal monsoon. The work-from-home policy is already followed formally and informally, and an extension may not be feasible. The rupee had started weakening even before the war in Iran, and its fall can be traced to other reasons as well.

The Prime Minister's appeal for consumption cuts shifts the burden of policy failures onto the citizens

This call for austerity comes at a time when the economy is drawing strength from consumption. Any disruption in this pattern can have wide-ranging consequences. The appeal is weak in intent and flawed in its messaging because it comes from a government that let a crisis build and now wants the people to solve it.

Democracy loses in delayed mandates

The controversy around the Sringeri Assembly constituency has raised uncomfortable questions about electoral processes, institutional credibility, and the consequences of delayed justice. What began as a narrow electoral contest has snowballed into a constitutional dispute that strikes at the heart of democratic legitimacy. In the 2023 Assembly elections, Congress candidate T D Rajegowda defeated the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s D N Jeevaraj by a margin of just 201 votes. The dispute centred on 279 rejected postal ballots, which Jeevaraj alleged were wrongly invalidated. Acting on his petition, the Karnataka High Court ordered a re-verification and recount. This dramatically altered the result, handing Jeevaraj victory by 52 votes; he even took the oath as an MLA. However, the Supreme Court has since stayed that outcome, observing that the Returning Officer may have exceeded the High Court's mandate by reassessing ballots already validated. The apex court has, for now, restored Rajegowda as a legislator pending final adjudication.

The controversy transcends the fortunes of two politicians. A three-year gap between the original count and the recount has triggered legitimate doubts about ballot sanctity and security. Allegations of improperly sealed boxes, missing rejected ballots, and tampering have deepened public mistrust. The dispute also exposes the dangers of administrative inconsistency. If one set of officials declared certain ballots valid in 2023, while another invalidated them in 2026, citizens are left wondering whether elections are governed by objective rules or subjective interpretation. Such uncertainty corrodes democratic faith. This is not an isolated case. The petition filed by Congress' Jayanagar candidate Sowmya Reddy over her 16-vote defeat remains unresolved three years on. The case involving Prajwal Revanna (JDS) is equally instructive. His 2019 Lok Sabha election from Hassan was set aside by the Karnataka High Court nearly four years later. The Supreme Court stayed that order, and the matter remains pending. In the meantime, Revanna contested and lost the 2024 elections. Such delays render the eventual verdict infructuous.

Protracted legal disputes over poll results extend ambiguity and erode trust in the electoral system

There have been judicial observations favouring election petitions being decided within six months. In reality, cases drag on for years, creating a damaging paradox: if the declared winner is eventually found to have lost, an unelected individual has represented the constituency for years; if the original winner is vindicated, they remain politically weakened by prolonged litigation. A democracy cannot afford such ambiguity. Election disputes must be resolved swiftly, transparently and conclusively – for the real casualty of delay is not one candidate or one constituency, but public faith in the electoral system itself.

A CONSTITUTIONAL REMEDY

Right to vote: The Republic's undelivered promise

Elevating it to a fundamental right would enable real-time judicial scrutiny of voter suppression

JEHOSH PAUL

There is a peculiar irony embedded in the architecture of the Indian Constitution. A document that opens with the sovereign declaration of "We, the People," that derives its entire legitimacy from the consent of the governed, does not in express terms recognise the right to vote as a fundamental right. For over seven decades, this omission has been treated as a minor jurisprudential footnote. However, the May 2026 assembly election results, which excluded over 1.6 crore voters, have deepened anxieties around electoral integrity in contemporary India. The omission now appears anything but minor.

This was not an oversight born of indifference. The Constituent Assembly's own debates reveal a striking, and largely forgotten, episode. Near-consensus had emerged that the right to vote should be treated as a fundamental right. The Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee and the Minorities Sub-Committee both recommended its inclusion in Part III. The Advisory Committee, however, feared that such a clause might be objected to by representatives of the Princely States, with whom negotiations for a unified India were still ongoing. C Rajagopalachari argued that it could not be taken for granted that the Union Legislature would be elected by direct vote. Eventually, a compromise suggested by Govind Ballabh Pant was adopted: the right to vote would not enter the chapter on fundamental rights, but would instead find mention in the Chairman's forwarding letter recommending principles for the framing of the Constitution. What began as political pragmatism during a delicate moment of national unification hardened, over decades, into a permanent constitutional condition. The framers intended a compromise; what endured was a lacuna.

The Supreme Court's position, articulated most clearly in *Jyoti Basu v. Debi Ghosal* (1982), has since been unambiguous. The right to elect, the Court held, is "neither a fundamental right nor a common law right. It is pure and simple, a statutory right." A citizen aggrieved by disenfranchisement cannot invoke Article 32 before the Supreme Court. The most fundamental act of democratic participation is thus placed beyond the most powerful remedy the Constitution offers.

That constitutional position has remained undisturbed for over four decades. In the intervening years, however, electoral administration has grown considerably more complex. Large-scale deletions from electoral rolls, disproportionately affecting migrants, minorities, women, and tribal communities, have mounted steadily

as a concern. The adjudication of these disputes proceeds through statutory mechanisms that are slow, difficult to navigate without legal literacy, and inaccessible to those who most need them. A citizen whose name has been wrongly deleted has no direct constitutional remedy. The democratic moment passes. The vote is lost. No subsequent statutory remedy restores what has been taken.

Restoring the founders' vision

Elevating the right to vote to the status of a fundamental right would alter this calculus entirely. It would require the Election Commission of India (ECI) to approach electoral roll management not merely as an administrative exercise but as a rights-compliance obligation. Voter suppression, by design or by neglect, would become judicially reviewable in real time.

Concerns against such a reform have generally centred on institutional consequences rather than democratic principles. Election law jurisprudence has long proceeded on the premise that elections are time-bound, procedurally intricate exercises in which judicial intervention, once begun, is difficult to contain. The fear is that elevating the right to vote into Part III would expand constitutional litigation around electoral administration and unsettle the existing statutory framework governing elections. This concern mistakes constitutional scrutiny for constitutional paralysis.

The Constitution has never treated any fundamental right as absolute. A provision conferring the right to vote, subject to reasonable restrictions prescribed by law, would preserve all existing regulatory frameworks. What it would change is the burden: the State would be required to justify restrictions before a court applying a proportionality standard, rather than leaving the citizen to navigate a statutory labyrinth without constitutional footing.

The Supreme Court's unanimous judgment in *Justice K S Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India* (2017) is instructive here. In recognising privacy as a fundamental right despite its absence from the express text of Part III, the nine-judge bench affirmed that the Constitution must be read as a living document, animated by values rather than frozen by historical circumstance. As Justice Krishna Iyer observed in *Mohinder Singh Gill v. Chief Election Commissioner* (1978), "the heart of the Parliamentary system is free and fair elections periodically held, based on adult franchise." More recently, in *Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India* (2023), Justice Ajay Rastogi declared the right to vote a fundamental right flowing from Articles 15, 17, 19, and 21, a view that went further than the majority, which treated it as a constitutional right rather than a fundamental one. Seventy-eight years after independence, there is an opportunity to realise the framers' full vision, which political circumstances once forced them to defer.

An amendment to Part III, guaranteeing every citizen the right to vote subject to reasonable restrictions prescribed by law, would achieve what the founders intended but could not deliver. The Princely States are gone. The constraints of 1947 disappeared long ago. What remains is a constitutional gap entirely within Parliament's power to close.

(The writer is a lawyer and former political consultant)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The engine maker

Some legacies chug along gently from one generation to the next

GEETA DHANANKAR

My father was my superhero. Born in the 1930s, his brilliance needed no degree to shine. He didn't need an IIT or a BE certificate to prove his intelligence—his hands, his ideas, and his relentless curiosity spoke for him.

We lived in Solapur, Maharashtra, where he worked with the Indian Railways. Every evening after duty hours, our living room transformed into a workshop. Tools lay scattered, wires crossed the floor, and curious neighbourhood boys sat around him, their eyes wide with wonder. Many of them would one day become engineers. But back then, they were simply children watching magic unfold.

My father taught without a classroom, without a syllabus—only with patience, kindness, and the pure joy of creating.

Those were the decades between 1960s and 1980s, before screens and gadgets, when joy lived in presence—in people, in conversations, and in things made by hand. He had many accomplishments and countless inventions, but the one that still moves me deeply is the working model of an electric engine he built from scratch.

Days turned into months as he carefully crafted the little engine. And then one evening, the long-awaited eureka moment arrived. His passion was finally in motion. She gracefully began to chug forward on tracks he had laid himself, pausing at signals he had built with equal care. The room filled with awe.

I was still young when I first watched it come alive. Made from discarded tins—*ghee* and oil containers that came in sturdy tin boxes in those days—it was more than a machine. It was imagination shaped into motion.

Our little chugging pride was not only a prized possession in our home, but also within the railway circle. She would come alive during exhibitions and special railway programmes, sometimes even beyond the railway community, drawing smiles wherever she went. Even today, our generation remembers it fondly—those Solapur days often revived in nostalgic WhatsApp conversations.

After he passed away, the train was carefully packed away, resting in silence—as if waiting.

Years later, my son chose mechanical engineering and selected a working electric engine as his personal project. When the engine began to chug once more, my happiness knew no bounds. In that familiar sound lived a legacy—not inherited through words, but carried forward through curiosity, craftsmanship, and motion.

What began in my father's hands found its way into my son's. Some legacies do not fade. They chug along gently, beautifully— from one generation to the next.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEET paper leak: Fix accountability, punish the guilty

It is a national disgrace that paper leaks of key examinations continue to occur in the country, jeopardising the future of lakhs of students. Now that the National Testing Agency has cancelled this year's NEET-UG, its credibility to hold such nationwide examinations is seriously impaired, despite assertions of a watertight framework to ensure the paper's secrecy. One can only visualise the suffering of over 22 lakh students who took the test after studying for years and their parents paying through the nose for their coaching. The authorities concerned appear to have learned nothing from the earlier 2024 breach, in which a re-test had to be conducted for over 1,500 students. Every paper leak implies the underplay of a large sum of money and high-level complicity. It only demonstrates that loopholes remain in the system. It is enough now. This time, heads must roll, and those responsible must face exemplary punishment.
Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

Victory beyond ballot

It seems Vijay, the newly sworn-in chief minister of Tamil Nadu, has not only won the elections with just short of an absolute majority but is also winning MLAs across party lines, as is evident in a sizeable faction of AIADMK declaring its support to the new government as well as the support of the lone elected member of AMMK. It is likely that more will shift their allegiance. It is hoped Vijay brings positive changes in Tamil Nadu, breaking the Dravidian hegemony.
V S Ganeshan, Bengaluru

Good to conserve

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent Hyderabad address is more than an appeal; it is a geopolitical survival mandate. With global crude prices volatile and the West Asian conflict straining our forex, the call to cut cooking oil use by 10% and halt foreign vacations is a direct challenge to India's consumerist complacency. Currently, India imports over 85% of its crude oil. Our obsession with destination weddings and gold is a drain on national wealth which we can no longer ignore. Statistically, reverting to Covid-era work from home could slash urban fuel demand by nearly 20%. We must stop viewing energy as an entitlement and start seeing it as a strategic weapon. Self-reliance isn't a slogan; it's a sacrifice. If we cannot trade comfort for sovereignty, we deserve the inflation that follows.
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

A war could break out at any moment; supply chains could be severely disrupted. In such a context, if the PM appeals to the nation not to buy gold, to conserve petrol, or to limit foreign travel, what exactly is the problem with that?

Ajay Alok, BJP leader

Do actions agree with words? There's your measure of reliability. Never confine yourself to the words.

Frank Herbert

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

India, Vietnam in new Asian equation

Deepening ties signal shared intent to shape a multipolar regional order beyond Chinese dominance

VANSHIKA SARAF

In October 1954, barely a week after the Viet Minh marched into a liberated Hanoi, Jawaharlal Nehru became the first foreign head of government to visit the city. He arrived not with arms or aid packages, but with a gesture of solidarity; a wager that a newly independent Asian nation deserved recognition on its own terms.

Seventy-two years on, India and Vietnam have travelled an extraordinary distance from that founding gesture. Vietnamese President Tô Lâm landed in New Delhi on May 5, becoming the first leader on Indian soil to hold both the titles of General Secretary of the Communist Party and State President. He came not with goodwill alone, but with a defence delegation, a business entourage, and a shared reading of the Indo-Pacific that was unimaginable in Nehru's time.

More recently, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh visited India in 2024, laying the groundwork for the deeper defence and technology ties we see today. This time around, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Tô Lâm upgraded the bilateral relationship to an 'Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.' With this upgrade, Vietnam is signalling to the world, and specifically to China, that it views India as a primary balancer in the region, alongside the United States and Japan.

The two nations have agreed to institute a "2+2 Dialogue" involving their respective foreign and defence ministries. This format is reserved for India's most trusted partners. Their navies conducted an inaugural joint hydrographic survey off Vietnam's coast in May 2025. A mutual logistics support agreement is already in place, enabling each country's forces to use the other's bases for repairs and replenishment.

A potential BrahMos missile deal, valued at approximately $600 million, would make Vietnam the second Southeast Asian country, after the Philippines, to operate India's flagship supersonic cruise missile, a development Beijing has watched with undisguised discomfort. Both leaders issued a strong joint statement on the South China Sea, advocating for freedom of navigation. Vietnam has officially joined India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI). This aligns Hanoi with New Delhi's vision for maritime security, which focuses on a rules-based order and opposing unilateral territorial claims.

For Vietnam, India offers something the US or Japan cannot quite provide: a large Asian power with no colonial baggage and a shared interest in a multipolar regional order, independent of the binary US-China framework. For India, a strong Vietnam with a credible maritime deterrence capability constrains Chinese freedom of action in the South China Sea and, by extension, in the broader Indo-Pacific waterways through which India's trade flows.

Both countries have set an ambitious bilateral trade target of $25 billion and signed agreements on digital payments, signalling possible UPI integration in Vietnam. They have also deepened cooperation in critical minerals and rare earths through a new MoU. As the global energy transition accelerates, access to rare earths and critical minerals will increasingly shape geopolitical power. Vietnam holds significant deposits, and India has ambitions for their processing. A partnership could give both countries leverage in a domain currently dominated by a handful of states.

Rising middle powers

Furthermore, culture continues to be an important thread in the relationship. President Tô Lâm's visit to Bodh Gaya before arriving in New Delhi was a reminder that Buddhism remains a powerful connector across Asia. India is helping Vietnam digitise and preserve ancient Cham Manuscripts. Unlike coercive or transactional forms of diplomacy, civilisational engagement creates long-term political goodwill. In the broader Asian region, where historical memory shapes perceptions of foreign policy, India must use its soft power constructively.

While many Southeast Asian states welcome India as a balancing power, they also recognise that India cannot presently match China's scale of trade, infrastructure financing, or manufacturing integration. New Delhi should focus on sectors in which it has comparative strengths: digital public infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, maritime domain awareness, and higher education partnerships.

The Indo-Pacific may have been a construct created by great powers, but it is no longer solely defined by their actions. Increasingly, middle powers such as India, Vietnam, Japan, Indonesia, and Australia are shaping the regional order through their strategic partnerships and a shared vision for maritime stability and economic prosperity.

Finally, in a move that affects everyday consumers, India will now export grapes and pomegranates to Vietnam, while Vietnam will export durians and pomelo to India. It is the durian – pungent, polarising, and impossible to ignore once it arrives, that may be the truest metaphor for where this partnership is headed.

(The writer is a research analyst, Geostrategy Programme, at the Takshashila Institution)

Let the Koh-i-Noor haunt the crown, Zohran

AVINASH THOMBRE AND ABHAY VAIDYA

The young and dynamic mayor of New York City, Zohran Mamdani, a maestro of vertical video, when asked what he would say to visiting British monarch King Charles, said, "If I were to speak to the king, I would probably encourage him to return the Koh-i-Noor diamond."

King Charles was in NYC recently to honour the 9/11 victims a few blocks from City Hall. Critics instantly pointed out that Mamdani was using this occasion as an opportunity for a freshman barb on colonialism and implying that this crown jewel belongs to India.

Others questioned Mamdani's standing to demand the diamond — has he self-appointed himself as a representative of India's government? Nicole Gelinas, contributing editor to the Manhattan Institute's *City Journal*, criticised the mayor's rudeness and his tone and demeanour and said Mamdani did his best version of a petulant teen betraying intolerable boredom — on Wednesday, Mamdani made himself look small.

Indeed, serving as mayor of a city with so much global history is a big job – it is not all day care and cheap eggs. Zohran is not the first to demand that the diamond be returned to India, though. The demand was made by India 70 years ago and more recently voiced by a collection of Bollywood stars and businessmen pressing the British government in 2015 to return the stolen jewel on the same legal basis as art looted by the Nazis during the Second World War. Estimated to be worth 100 million British pounds, successive British prime ministers have stared down India's standing request.

It has been the subject of myth and intrigue ever since.

No wonder Zohran made this demand, as he was raised by his academic father Mahmood Mamdani, where the conversation always focused on dispossession, expulsion, being treated as non-indigenous, and being treated as alien. According to Hisham Aidi, a political scientist at Columbia University whose supervisor was Professor Mamdani, that was the colonial construct from the beginning; that is Mahmood's life's work, and Zohran grew up with that.

Renowned writer Amitav Ghosh, who has consistently problematised the impacts of colonialism in his fiction writing, said that he knew his mayor [Zohran Mamdani] as a boy: "I've known since he was a kid." Ghosh is a close friend of Mira Nair, mother of Zohran, and they both went to college together in New Delhi. Ghosh recalls that the Indian American community in New York City knew that Zohran was charismatic. He spoke well. He's got that killer smile. "What really surprised me," Ghosh said, "though, is how competent he is-- Every day he unveils some new thing. In our circles, it's so rare for anyone to go into retail politics. I never would have guessed he'd turn out to be a political phenomenon – a genius, in a way. He just hits such a chord with young people."

Mamdani, with his latest comments, has again shifted attention from the pomp and circumstance of a calculated royal visit to the unsettled question of the Koh-i-Noor's ownership and Britain's colonial legacy. Certain events in history ought to serve as grim reminders to humanity never to go on that path again. By doing so, humanity must perpetually remind itself of the extreme cruelty, pain, exploitation and suffering of the past inflicted by fellow humans on one another.

Such pit stops of history are necessary pauses as we race ahead to conquer new worlds and new planets with artificial intelligence, science and technology. Is humanity moving forward with equal speed and determination to create a better, kinder, more humane, spiritually elevated and environmentally safe world for our children and future generations?

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum in Japan, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and The Partition Museum at Amritsar, India, are among the memorials better rested in the past. More than an estimated one million Hindus and Muslims were killed in the 1947 Partition violence that led to the creation of Pakistan. That legacy of the British Colonial Raj continues to wreak havoc even today as Indians and Pakistanis have become sworn enemies of each other with nuclear weapons at their fingertips. The peace and prosperity of the entire South Asian region have been held hostage by this conflict for more than seven decades now.

Alex Haley's Roots is one such marker of what the slave trade of America did to the people of Africa. The most serious conflicts in the world today can be traced to those 300 years of colonial history—17th to 20th centuries-- when borders and maps were redrawn and new nations created. Sadly, both Israel and Palestine are victims of this legacy of British colonialism.

However, we dare add that in the majority of present-day Indians, we would humbly disagree with Mayor Mamdani and pretty much opine that let the Koh-i-Noor be rather retained by Britain as a shining symbol of their loot, plunder and murder of natives and their uncivilised greed as a shame of their horrific past, and let it continue to sit on the British monarch's head. Yes, we Indians certainly don't want it back. You can have it. Thank you so much, Your Majesty!

In fact, the symbol of the Koh-i-Noor should inspire us to work towards a global reset that the world needs desperately today.

(The writers are former journalists)

The unrest in Odisha's Sijimali exposes the fault lines between mining-led development and the rights of Adivasi communities over land, forests and consent. It is a question of how India balances its economic ambitions with constitutional protections for tribal communities

AMISHA PANDEY AND RAJESH KUMAR

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

The struggle for Sijimali

History offers ample evidence of a persistent pattern: those in power have consistently exploited the weak, dispossessing them of both resources and rights. From the monarchies of antiquity to the Mughal and British colonial regimes, and even within the framework of post-Independence democratic governments, successive systems of authority have repeatedly pushed marginalised communities to the periphery. This marginalisation has rarely been a mere coincidence; it has typically commenced with the dispossession of land and gradually escalated to the violation of fundamental rights.

What renders this trend particularly alarming is its persistence in contemporary India, where, despite the ambitious vision of a 'Viksit Bharat', these entrenched dynamics of dispossession and inequality remain largely untransformed. A recent example is unfolding in Sijimali in Odisha, where indigenous inhabitants are being dispossessed of their land, which is then being handed over to industrial tycoons. Moreover, when these indigenous people peacefully gather to defend their ancestral lands, the administration launches violent assaults. For the past month, the administration has imposed a curfew in Sijimali, backed by the heavy deployment of police and paramilitary forces. The local populace alleges that the administration has taken these measures specifically to ensure the unimpeded construction of a 3.4-km-long approach road, cutting through forest land from Bichhapinda to the Sijimali mineral block, for Vedanta Limited, thereby preventing any interference from the local community. To understand the process by which the government displaces local communities from their forests, water sources, and land, it is essential to first gain a deep understanding of the issue at hand.

The site of conflict

Since 2023, unrest has grown among local communities after Vedanta emerged as the preferred bidder for bauxite mining, securing a 1,549-hectare lease in a region with an estimated 311 million tonnes of high-grade reserves. The Sijimali bauxite project falls within the Fifth Schedule areas of Rayagada and Kalahandi, where the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, and the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, are to be strictly enforced. Despite the Supreme Court of India's *Niyamgiri* ruling requiring gram sabha consent, a one-month curfew was imposed in the area on April 3. Despite pending petitions in the Odisha High Court and incomplete approvals for Vedanta, the government began road construction for the company. Furthermore, the administration launched a police crackdown in Kantamal village on April 7, which led to the arrest of 21 Adivasis, including pregnant and nursing women, raising serious human rights concerns. These developments have transformed a situation, originally a proposed infrastructure development initiative, into a site of persistent conflict. They also point to a recurring pattern in which mining-based development in resource-rich regions proceeds alongside escalating tensions over land, the law, and local autonomy.

The unfolding events in Sijimali shed light on a question that extends far beyond the immediate conflict: it is not merely a matter of whether consent was obtained but rather of how that consent is, in reality, shaped. In such a context, the distinction between consent and mere compliance becomes blurred.

For communities in Sijimali, the forests are central to daily life, providing food, water, firewood, and medicine while shaping farming practices, social ties, and cultural traditions. This bond with the land is reflected in the way residents speak of Sijimali, not merely as a geographical area, but as a shared source of identity and continuity. It is within this context that resistance has taken root. In this light, the resistance in Sijimali extends beyond opposition to a single project, reflecting a wider struggle to protect a way of life rooted in the land. Residents have declared they will not hand over their 'mother', Sijimali, to outside companies or allow mining to proceed. They warn that any attempt to do so will be met with unwavering resistance against both State and corporate forces. Their resistance resonates in their slogan: *Birsa Munda Dakara Die, Ladhei Kari Banchi Hue*, a spirited rallying cry inspired by the legacy of Birsa Munda, reminding them that to live with dignity, one must always be prepared to resist injustice.

On April 10, the Khandualmali Permanent Security Committee organised a massive protest demonstration at the Lanjigarh Tehsil office, demanding an immediate halt to the repressive actions currently being taken against anti-mining protesters across the state. During this rally, the people chanted the following slogan among others: *Ama Gaon Re Ama Sarkar, Bideshi Company Nahin Darkar* (our government in our village; no need for foreign companies). They declared that they would prefer to sacrifice their lives rather than surrender their land. To them, Sijimali is not merely a piece of land—it is their mother, their identity, their emotion, and their very existence.

Environmental damage

The impacts of projects such as the one proposed in Sijimali extend far beyond the immediate issues of land acquisition or displacement. The depletion of forest land, mounting pressure on water resources, and disruptions to local ecosystems can alter agricultural practices, diminish access to forest produce, and impact the region's biodiversity. For communities that rely entirely on these environments, adapting to such changes is no easy task. Moreover, the experience of these impacts is unevenly distributed. Women, in particular, are often more directly affected by ecological shifts, given their pivotal role in gathering water, firewood, and forest produce. Restrictions on movement, diminished access to resources, and mounting uncertainty can exacerbate their daily burdens in ways that are rarely accounted for in project planning or evaluation processes.

In situations like that of Sijimali, any meaningful path forward must begin with taking consent seriously. This will necessitate ensuring that clear and accessible information reaches communities, that they are afforded adequate time for deliberation, and that they possess the freedom to express their dissent without facing pressure from administrative or police actions.

This also demands a deep examination of how development itself is framed. When projects are viewed primarily through the lens of their economic benefits, questions regarding ecological sustainability and community life are often considered only after decisions have already been made and work has commenced.

The unfolding events in Sijimali make it clear that the real issue is not whether development should take place or not; rather, the central question is, on what terms should development proceed? In the wake of these events, a deeply troubling question arises: would the government have been able to take such measures against the tribals if these tribal communities were as powerful as the Rajputs of Rajasthan, the Jatt Sikhs of Punjab, or the Jats of Haryana, that is, communities that possess land ownership rights within their respective regions?

(The writers are PhD candidates at the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi)

War in West Asia, cracks in dollar order

VASANT G HEGDE AND RATI CHANDRA

Since Donald Trump returned to the presidency of the United States have had a significant impact on the global financial system, from the imposition of tariffs on 'Liberation Day' to the continuing tensions in West Asia. Concerns over the security of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical oil transit route, briefly pushed Brent crude prices sharply higher and renewed fears of supply disruptions. Simultaneously, threats by the US to impose secondary sanctions on countries trading with Iran have once again highlighted the weaponisation of the dollar by the world's only superpower.

These developments have compelled oil-dependent countries to think more seriously about de-dollarisation—the systemic efforts by nations to reduce dependence on the US dollar in trade, reserves and financial transactions. Rising crude prices force countries such as India, China, and Brazil to spend more dollars on oil imports, weakening their own currencies in relative terms.

Nations have largely tolerated the dollar hegemony since the end of the Second World War. Today, however, the US dollar appears less a stabilising force and more a liability. Though no currency currently can replace the dollar as the reserve currency, recent war seems to have accelerated the search for alternatives.

The US dollar has been the reserve currency in international trade, reserves, and finance through most of the postwar era. A substantial share of global trade invoicing is still conducted in dollars, while most international payments flow through the SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) system, dominated by US banks. The US national debt has crossed $38 trillion with central banks around the world holding large quantities of US Treasury securities. The cost of the West Asian conflict, which is about $25 billion for the US military, is expected to place further pressure on the American national debt.

Economic sanctions, including the freezing of Russian state and private assets across the world during the Russia-Ukraine war, exposed the risks associated with overreliance on a dollar-denominated system.

For de-dollarisation to gather momentum, countries must build alternative payment mechanisms. The BRICS grouping, which currently has 11 members, has become a leading advocate of currency-based trade settlements. The control for the global payment system has begun with Brazil contemplating activating the BRICS bridge system. Through this system, it becomes possible to make cross-border payments in international trade without the involvement of US banks. BRICS PAY will feature a decentralised cross-border messaging system (DCMS) done through blockchain technology, completely bypassing the Western-controlled SWIFT mechanism.

India, as a key member of BRICS, has also taken measures to reduce its dependence on the dollar. Rupee-based oil purchases have increased, indicating a gradual shift towards currency diversification. Elsewhere, euro-riyal and yuan-ruble trading corridors are moving from experimental pilots to mainstream trade routes. Some Gulf countries, long considered pillars of the petrodollar system, have also begun exploring "mBridge" transactions that settle energy trade using central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) rather than the US dollar.

Developments over the last few years also indicate a gradual move away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and green hydrogen. India, one of the world's fastest-growing renewable energy markets, is witnessing a surge in demand for strategic minerals such as lithium, copper, and nickel. Central banks, meanwhile, have been aggressively buying gold and reducing their exposure to US Treasury holdings. Gold's share in India's foreign exchange reserves has risen to 16.7% from 8% over the last few years. Unlike dollar-denominated assets, gold held by central banks cannot be frozen through unilateral sanctions as imposed lately by Trump. The foundations of global finance may therefore be shifting—from oil-based systems to resource- and metal-driven dynamics.

All these developments point towards a polarised world. On one side is the traditional dollar-based system, which is seen as risky by the Global South. On the other is a fragmented, multi-currency landscape led by the BRICS digital infrastructure, characterised by bilateral agreements. There is also the polarisation between energy-independent and energy-dependent nations. While the US has enough oil reserves and shale gas, the rest of the world, especially Europe and East Asia, has borne the brunt of the war surcharge that is imposed on them.

The West Asia war did not start the de-dollarisation movement; it has acted as a catalyst. While it is difficult to answer how long the US can continue its monetary imperialism, it is a fact that the global payment system might be undergoing a subtle shift away from the dollar.

(The writers are former bankers and currently teach at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976

Food outpaces population

New Delhi, May 12
Minister of State for Agriculture A. P. Shinde claimed in the Rajya Sabha today that the rate of increase in food production in the country was a little more than the growth rate in population. The Minister said that food production, which was about 52 million tonnes at the end of the First Plan, had gone up to 103 million tonnes at the end of the Fourth Plan. During the second year of the Fifth Plan, food production had gone up to 108 million tonnes and this was more than the growth rate in population.

25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001

SC sets terms for Hindujas' travel abroad

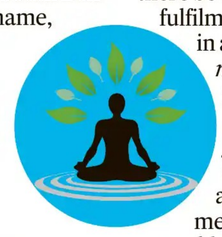
New Delhi, May 12
In a unique reprieve, the Supreme Court today allowed British nationals Srichand Hinduja and Gopichand Hinduja to go abroad till August 20 after furnishing bail bonds of Rs 30 crore and asked their younger brother Prakash Chand Hinduja to stay behind to act as a guarantee for their return. The relief came after almost four months to the three Europe- based brothers charge-sheeted in the Rs 64-crore Bofors payoff case.

OASIS | ROHINI S MURTHY

The words we speak become the world we live in

As a 15-year-old girl way back in the late 1980s, I was a nervous wreck waiting for my Class 10 results. Anticipating the worst, I would often tell my grandmother, 'I am bound to fail at least in one subject.' She would admonish by saying, 'There are *asthu devathas* all around us, and they keep saying *tatasthu* (so be it) to our spoken word, especially during twilight hours, so always speak positively.'

Though I was unable to comprehend the deep meaning behind her words, I would obey and hope for the best. As the years passed by, my interactions with my grandmother and her siblings became practical lessons in developing positive thoughts and speaking gentle words. They grew up in a modest home located in East Anjaneya Temple street in South Bengaluru. True to the Lord's name, all the siblings embodied amazing mental strength and humility. They may have inherited these traits from their mother, who was known for her stoic nature and grit.



As they grew up, the siblings' kindness and loving nature charmed neighbours, friends and relatives alike. In many ways, they collectively personified this verse: *Om Sarveshaam Svastir Bhavatu, Sarveshaam Shaantir Bhavatu, Sarveshaam Purnam Bhavatu, Sarveshaam Mangalam Bhavatu* (May there be well-being in all, peace in all, fulfilment in all, and auspiciousness in all). The energy of this *shanti mantra* could be felt in every family gathering or function, carried by my grandmother's *joie-de-vivre*, her sisters' soulful rendition of hymns, and their eldest brother's mellifluous flute. The ambience would reverberate with their good vibes and soothing words.

As I reflect upon their memories now, I often wonder, 'Have I inherited any of their good traits? Am I honouring the values my ancestors lived by?'. Though I cannot give a definitive answer to this, I must confess that I did have a habit of losing my temper and letting out a string of not-so-gentle words.

Thankfully, I have learnt to keep my temper in check these days as I suspect the *asthu devathas* can hear my negative train of thoughts and I quickly reframe it differently.

Today, when I read or hear about positive affirmations and manifestations, I am reminded of the *asthu devatha* logic my grandmother introduced me to. I can't help but wonder if, beneath different words, aren't we pointing to the very same truth?

IN BRIEF

Two NSCN cadres killed in gunfight

▸ **ITANAGAR, PTI:** Two suspected NSCN cadres were killed in an encounter with Assam Rifles in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh, after security forces launched a counter-insurgency operation based on inputs about the movement of armed insurgents allegedly involved in extortion activities, police said on Tuesday.

India declines Russian LNG

▸ **NEW DELHI, REUTERS:** India has declined Russia's offer to sell it liquefied natural gas subject to US sanctions despite a shortfall driven by west Asia tensions, said two sources with direct knowledge of the matter, leaving a tanker bound for India in limbo as talks continue on permitted cargoes.

CPM leader on temple visit

▸ **THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS:** CPM senior leader in Kerala P Jayarjan has said visiting places of worship are not forbidden for communists as he justified his visit to Kodungallur Sree Kurumba Bhagavathi Temple. He said he visited the temple for research related to a book he is writing.

Four killed in lightning strikes

▸ **THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS:** Four youths were killed and three injured reportedly after suffering lightning at Mankada in Malappuram district. The incident took place at Kuranganchola, a view point frequented by domestic tourists. All the deceased are residents of the locality and aged around 20. Their identities were yet to be confirmed.

Stronger Pawar grip on NCP

▸ **MUMBAI, DHNS:** Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party national president Sunetra Pawar has inducted her sons, Parth and Jay, into the party's powerful national working committee. While elder son Parth (36), recently nominated to the Rajya Sabha, has been appointed national general secretary, younger son Jay (29) has been made national secretary and head of the party's disciplinary committee, a strategically significant role.

Goyal allowed to travel to London

▸ **MUMBAI, PTI:** A special court on Tuesday allowed Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal to travel to London for four weeks for expert consultation of his medical condition. Special judge R B Rote, hearing cases related to money laundering, noted that the right to travel abroad to seek an expert opinion for a person suffering from various ailments is a basic human right.

Woman's body taken on bicycle

▸ **BALASORE (ODISHA), PTI:** The family of a 39-year-old woman in Odisha's Balasore district on Tuesday carried her body on a bicycle for around 12 km to a police station, alleging inaction in arresting those accused in her murder. Video clips of the family went viral on social media, prompting senior police officers to rush to the station.

HC on FIFA broadcast plea

▸ **NEW DELHI, PTI:** The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought the stand of the Centre and Prasar Bharti on a petition seeking the broadcast of the FIFA World Cup 2026, which is scheduled to commence on June 11.

Udhayanidhi stirs Sanatana row again

BJP says hatred towards Hinduism will ensure his downfall

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Udhayanidhi Stalin.

Tamil Nadu's Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin on Tuesday stoked a fresh controversy by calling for the "eradication" of Sanatana Dharma, which he said "divides people". The remark came at the close of his maiden speech as LoP in the 17th Assembly, following the unanimous election of JCD Prabhakar as Speaker.

"May Tamil win. Long live Tamil Nadu. Sanatanam, which divides people, should be eradicated," the DMK youth wing chief said.

This is the second time Udhayanidhi has spoken against Sanatana Dharma. In September 2023, he likened it to "dengue, malaria and corona" and called for its "eradication" from society.

Udhayanidhi had earlier said Sanatana Dharma is a principle that divides people in the name of caste and religion. "Uprooting Sanatana Dharma will lead to upholding humanity and human equality," he had said.

His latest statement comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the Congress of abandoning its "long-time ally" DMK for power, after the national party switched sides to support the TVK. The DMK leader's remarks also follow speculation that the party could now ally with the BJP.

Tamil Nadu BJP chief Nainar Nagenthiran said Udhayanidhi's excessive hatred towards Hinduism will ensure his downfall. "The fact that you spoke about the need to eradicate Sanatana, the cherished faith of millions of Hindus, only shows that you are still politically immature. Your continued stone-throwing at Hindus is deserving of the strongest condemnation," Nagenthiran added.

In his speech congratulating Prabhakar, Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay invoked the historical origins of parliamentary traditions rooted in the British Parliament.

Vijay said everyone is equal within the House and appealed to the Speaker to ensure that members from both the Treasury and Opposition benches receive equal time to present their views.

Sanatana eternal: RSS' Hosabale

NEW DELHI, PTI: Comparing Sanatana to a banyan tree, RSS's second-in-command Dattatreya Hosabale on Tuesday hit out at DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin, saying just because he wants it eradicated doesn't mean it will disappear.

"Sanatana is the spirit and soul of this nation. It is not a religious practice, but a value and a worldview," he said.

Hosabale was asked about Udhayanidhi's maiden speech as the Leader of Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Assembly earlier on Tuesday, in which he called for the eradication of Sanatana, a view he has expressed in the past also.

Dattatreya Hosabale

"It is his opinion and people have answered it in the elections. But, Sanatana will not go because somebody says so," the RSS leader said.

"Sanatana is that which is eternally there. Eternity is Sanatan. It is like a tree, a banyan tree. Even after 100 years or 200 years, the banyan tree stands there," he said.

Meanwhile, the BJP slammed Udhayanidhi Stalin on Tuesday over his renewed attack on Sanatana Dharma, accusing him and other opposition parties of indulging in "Sanatana hatred" for the sake of vote-bank politics.

Consultations peak as Rahul meets Kerala leaders in final leg of CM talks

Decision nears on Venugopal vs Satheesan

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Consultations to choose Kerala's chief Minister entered the final stage on Tuesday, with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi holding discussions with working presidents and former state chiefs who expressed support for either KC Venugopal or VD Satheesan, depending on their stance.

Former presidents MM Hassan, K Sudhakaran, K Muralidharan and VM Sudheeran, along with Disciplinary Committee Chairman Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan and working presidents Shafi Parambil, AP Anilkumar and PC Vishnunath, met Rahul separately. He is also learnt to have spoken over phone with another former state chief, Mullappally Ramachandran, as well as with veteran party leader AK Antony.

Wider consultations began after the party high command failed to zero in on a name from among contenders — Venugopal, Satheesan and Ramesh Chennithala — following a three-hour meeting Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi held on Saturday.

While Venugopal is learnt to have the overwhelming support of MLAs, Satheesan has gained backing from the general public, party workers and allies such as the Muslim League. Sources said Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra believe public sentiment should not be ignored.

STALEMATE
- Cong consults former Kerala party chiefs amid deadlock
- Majority of MLAs back Venugopal, public favours Satheesan
- Muslim League pushes Satheesan as CM choice
- IUML may toughen stand in ministry talks

MLAs vs public support

Leaders, including Sudhakaran and Hassan, as well as the three working presidents, are learnt to have told Rahul that the support of MLAs should be considered, while Muralidharan said that popular sentiment must also be factored into the decision.

Some leaders, sources indicated, claimed that the demonstrations in support of Satheesan were orchestrated by his supporters to pressure the party high command. Venugopal is said to have the backing of 43 of the 63 Congress MLAs.

Sources said leaders of allies have been sounded out that the Congress leadership may reach out to them during the day. The Muslim League is learnt to have indicated its preference for Satheesan. This was due to his image as a leader who had taken a stand when the community was under attack.

IUML leadership to meet amid deadlock

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Amid resentment over the delay in government formation by the Congress-led United Democratic Front in Kerala, the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) is holding a leadership meeting on Wednesday.

The meeting is expected to discuss the party's stand if the Congress leadership opts for KC Venugopal as CM.

The IUML, along with other UDF allies, has openly backed VD Satheesan, who led the front in the elections and played a key role in securing a historic victory with 102 seats.

More voices of displeasure from the IUML, the second-largest party in the UDF, emerged on Tuesday as MLA-designate TV Ibrahim said the delay in forming the government had taken the sheen off the win secured by the front.

"Even if the delay in forming a government is due to the Congress' internal issues, the UDF's MLA-designates are unable to face the people," he said.

Meanwhile, the CPM and the BJP also criticised the UDF over the delay in government formation.

LDF convenor TP Ramakrishnan said the Congress should demonstrate its commitment to voters by respecting their mandate.

A delay in forming the government after winning a clear majority is a serious flaw, he added.

BJP MLA-designate V Muraleedharan said infighting in the Congress was the reason people were often reluctant to support the party.

BJP flags IUML interference

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Kerala BJP leader and MLA designate, V Muraleedharan, asked the Congress to think whether it was appropriate to give the education portfolio to IUML.

He also said self-respecting Congress leaders should think about whether IUML should be allowed to interfere in the Congress's chief minister selection. However, he said on Tuesday he was wrongly quoted as stating that the education portfolio should not be given to IUML.

Row as Vijay's astrologer gets key govt post

CHENNAI, DHNS: Rickey Radhan Pandit Vettrivel, personal astrologer of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, has been appointed Officer on Special Duty (Political) in the Chief Minister's Office, triggering a row, with alliance partners objecting to the move.

Vettrivel's appointment came a day before Vijay faces a floor test in the Assembly to prove his majority. Radhan, who serves as Vijay's astrologer and spiritual advisor, had predicted his victory as early as January.

Radhan, who describes himself as a political and celebrity astrologer, is claimed to have advised former chief minister J Jayalalithaa and BJP leader LK Advani.

His appointment drew condemnation from alliance partners, including the Congress and VCK, who said that there is no place for an astrologer in a secular government that should uphold scientific temper.

Congress MP Sasikanth Senthil questioned the posting of "an astrologer" as OSD in the government.

Former IAS officer Senthil reposted on 'X' a copy of the letter appointing Vettrivel as OSD to the chief minister.

"Beats me. Why would an astrologer require an OSD position? Can anyone explain?" wrote the MP for Tiruvalluvar constituency.

(With PTI inputs)

Half of Cabinet face criminal charges

Half of the newly sworn-in ministers of the Tamil Nadu Cabinet have criminal cases against them, while 20% have assets over Rs 100 crore, said a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

Out of the 10 ministers analysed, five have declared criminal cases against themselves; three have declared serious criminal cases.

Himanta begins second term; Oppn, including Cong, skips ceremony

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday took oath as Assam chief minister for a second consecutive term, while four other legislators, including two from the BJP's regional allies, were sworn in as ministers.

Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office and secrecy to Sarma and the other legislators at a grand ceremony held at the College of Veterinary Science playground in Khanapara. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the chief guest. Dressed in a traditional dhuti-kurta, Sarma, 57, took oath in Assamese.

The four MLAs sworn in as ministers were Ajanta Neog and Rameswar Teli of the BJP, Atul Bora of the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), and Charan Boro of the Bodoland People's Front (BPF). Teli represents the tea garden community, a key BJP vote bank, while Neog, a five-time MLA, has served as finance minister since 2021. The council is expected to be expanded soon.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma with West Bengal counterpart Suvendu Adhikari during the swearing-in ceremony in Guwahati on Tuesday. PTI

Ranjeet Kumar Dass, BJP MLA-elect from Sorbhog-Bhabanipur, will be the new Speaker, CM Sarma said.

Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, chief ministers and deputy CMs of several NDA-ruled states, BJP national president Nitin Nabin, several satradhikars (heads of Vaishnavite monasteries in Assam), top industrialists and diplomats of several nations attended the ceremony. The CMs of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Maharashtra, Delhi, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram were present.

Opposition parties, including the Congress, which managed to win only 19 seats, skipped the function.

In the Assembly election results announced on May 4, the BJP and its allies registered a record victory for a third consecutive term, securing 102 of the 126 seats. The BJP bagged 82, while the AGP and BPF improved their tallies with 10 seats each.

The ascent

The swearing-in for a second consecutive term — the first such feat by a non-Congress leader in Assam — further elevated Sarma's stature in state politics as well as within the BJP. Sarma's political career has witnessed a steady rise since his departure from the Congress in 2015.

'Window for talks with Pak should be open'

NEW DELHI, PTI: Noting that trust in Pakistan's military and political leadership is completely missing in India, top RSS functionary Dattatreya Hosabale on Tuesday said that people-to-people contact is the best way to break the deadlock.

"That should be tried more and more now," he said.

"This is the one hope I think, because I believe strongly that ultimately the civil society relations (will work). Because we have a cultural relation and we have been one nation," he said.

"So, that has to be emphasised," he said. He was asked how India should deal with Pakistan and its continued sponsorship of terrorism. "The security and self-respect of a country have to be protected and the government of the day should take care of it. But at the same time, we need not close the doors. We should always be ready to engage them in a dialogue," he said.

CBI takes over probe into Suvendu aide murder

KOLKATA, DHNS: The BJP government in West Bengal handed over the investigation into the murder of Chandranath Rath, the personal assistant of Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, to the CBI, just after a probe by the state police led to the arrest of three men, including one purportedly linked to the saffron party.

The CBI constituted a seven-member Special Investigation Team to probe the case, a senior officer of the central agency said. The team will be led by a CBI officer of the Deputy IGP rank. This move comes just after the state police claimed a breakthrough and arrested three men from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Garga arrest

Kolkata Police on Tuesday arrested 'Bangla Pokkho' leader Garga Chatterjee over allegations of spreading misinformation regarding EVMs during the recently concluded Assembly elections.

Rahul dissents on CBI chief selection

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday submitted a dissent note objecting to the process adopted for selecting a new CBI director at the selection committee meeting, saying he is "not a rubber stamp" and refusing to participate in what he called a "biased exercise" after being "denied any meaningful role".

Rahul said he was not provided with self-appraisal reports or 360-degree assessments of the eligible candidates in advance, and was handed details of 69 names only when the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led selection committee convened to choose the successor to Praveen Sood, who is on a one-year extension. Chief Justice Suryakant is the third member of the panel.

Rahul Gandhi

"By denying the selection committee crucial information, the government has reduced it to a mere formality. The Leader of the Opposition is not a rubber stamp. I cannot abdicate my constitutional duty by participating in this biased exercise," he said.

There was no official word on the panel's choice, though reports suggested that CRPF Director General GP Singh and ITBP Director General Shatrujit Singh Kapoor were among the frontrunners for the post.

In his dissent note, Rahul said the Modi government has "repeatedly misused" the CBI — intended to be India's premier investigative agency.

Caste, regional equations dominate Yogi's Cabinet rejig

ANALYSIS

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

With the next Assembly polls in the politically crucial state of Uttar Pradesh barely nine months away, the BJP, through the recent state cabinet expansion, has attempted to set the caste and regional equations right and also counter the 'PDA' (*Pichda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak*) formula of the Samajwadi Party (SP).

Six new ministers were inducted into the cabinet on Sunday, taking the total number of ministers in the state to its maximum quota of 60. Of the six newly inducted ministers, three are from the OBC community, two from the Dalit community and one from the Brahmin community.

The inclusion of Manoj Pandey appeared to be an attempt to placate the electorally influential Brahmin community and came in the wake of protests by several caste outfits against the new UGC regulations on promoting campus equity and a meeting by the Brahmin party MLAs where many of them complained that their community was being sidelined.

Two of the newly inducted ministers, Surendra Diler and Krishna Paswan, hailed from the Dalit community, indicating the BJP's attempt to reach out to the non-Jatav Dalits, who are not considered part of the BSP's core vote bank.

Krishna's inclusion in the Cabinet was electorally significant as the Paswan community voters were considered to be influential in several Assembly seats in Central UP and Bundelkhand. Diler hails from the Pasi community, which too was a deciding factor in many constituencies.

As many as three ministers are from Western UP, and it is viewed as an attempt to give more representation to the region where BJP had fared badly in the 2024 LS polls.

NUMBER GAME
- Of the six newly inducted ministers, three are from the OBC community, two from the Dalit community and one from the Brahmin community
- The inclusion of Manoj Pandey appears an attempt to placate the Brahmin community

Liquor ban sparks controversy in J&K as Omar defends sales

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

A political storm has erupted in Jammu and Kashmir over demands for a complete ban on liquor, with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's remarks against prohibition triggering sharp reactions from Opposition leaders, religious voices and civil society groups in the Muslim-majority Union Territory.

The controversy intensified after Abdullah, while speaking to reporters in Ganderbal on Sunday, defended the continued operation of liquor shops and said the government was not forcing anyone to consume alcohol.

"Is anyone forcing them to drink? You are going to the shop on your own will. Why are you going there? We are not dragging you there. We are not advertising it," Abdullah said.

The CM also argued that imposing a ban solely on religious grounds would be inappropriate since alcohol consumption is not prohibited in all religions.

His remarks quickly drew criticism from Peoples Democratic Party leader Iltija Mufti, who termed the argument "illogical" and cited prohibition policies in Hindu-majority states.

Omar Abdullah

"J-K CM's expected U-turn on the refusal to prohibit liquor shops lacks logic. He claims it is wrong to impose a ban on Hindus consuming alcohol since their religion does not forbid it. If this is the case, how have Hindu majority states like Gujarat and Bihar banned alcohol successfully without a whimper?" she said in a post on X.

"We are proud of J&K's secular credentials, but deeply unfortunate and insensitive for its chief minister to dismiss religious sensibilities of the majority with such indifference," Iltija added.

The row widened after senior Shia cleric and politician Imran Raza Ansari also criticised Abdullah's remarks, saying they had hurt public sentiment in Kashmir, where religious organisations and civil society groups have repeatedly sought prohibition.

The liquor issue has become increasingly contentious in J&K in recent months, with religious bodies, activists and several legislators demanding a ban on alcohol sales.

Even leaders within the ruling National Conference have raised the issue. Senior NC leader Ali Mohammad Sagar has proposed a bill seeking a complete liquor ban in Jammu and Kashmir.

Barring women entry into Sabarimala an individual choice: SC

Says if people, through representatives, demand social reform, court will likely accept it

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that whether barring women of menstrual age from entering the Sabarimala temple amounts to a "taboo" or not is ultimately a matter of individual choice and conscience.

It also said that if the people, through their elected representatives, collectively decide the practice requires social reform, the court would likely accept such reform.

A nine-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, which is examining issues of gender discrimination at religious places, including Sabarimala and the scope of religious freedoms across faiths, made the remark during the hearing.

ENTRY CONUNDRUM

- The nine-judge bench is examining issues of gender discrimination at religious places
- Counsel argues banning entry of menstruating women treats menstruation as taboo
- Arguments touched upon interplay between social reform laws and religious practices

The bench, also comprising Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi, was hearing multiple petitions on the issue.

Senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, representing some parties, submitted that the exclusion of women in Sabarimala is primarily based on menstrual age. He gave an example of a 10-year-old girl visiting the temple with her family, saying the practice treats menstruation as a taboo.

Justice Nagarathna responded that whether it is considered a taboo or not depends on individual perception. "If you consider it a taboo, then it is a taboo, and if you don't consider it a taboo (then it is not)... The question is how you view it," she observed.

The judge added that a devotee and a non-devotee may view the practice differently, and one should ultimately be guided by one's own conscience.

Hansaria asserted that as a devotee, his conscience did not treat menstruation as a stigma. The arguments also touched upon the interplay between social reform laws and religious practices. The bench noted that courts would not interfere if the people, through their elected representatives, push for social reform on such issues.

CJI forms panel to modernise court infrastructure

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has constituted a high-powered Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee to address infrastructural deficiencies in courts across the country and prepare a comprehensive blueprint for their modernisation.

The committee, headed by Supreme Court judge Justice Aravind Kumar, will identify the varied needs of High Courts and District Courts and work towards creating a unified infrastructural ecosystem across the country.

Besides Justice Kumar, the panel includes Justices Debangsu Basak of the Calcutta High Court, Ashwani Kumar Mishra of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, and Somasekhar Sundaresan of Bombay HC.

Chief Justice Surya Kant

The Director General of the Central Public Works Department and the Secretary General of the Supreme Court will also be members of the committee. Announcing the formation of panel, the Supreme Court Secretary General said it had been set up keeping in view the diverse infrastructural requirements of courts across the country.

"The purpose of the Committee is to ensure a unified infrastructural ecosystem on a pan-India basis," a statement said. The committee will submit its report to the Chief Justice of India, who will take up the matter with the Union Government and the respective state governments for financial support and implementation.

The panel is expected to focus on key areas such as removing systemic constraints, improving facilities for litigants and lawyers, expanding the e-Courts project.

Pocso case: Union minister's son moves HC for pre-arrest bail

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Five days after an FIR was registered against him under sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Bandi Sai Bhageerath, son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, approached the Telangana High Court on Tuesday seeking anticipatory bail.

Bhageerath (23) has been absconding since the FIR was filed on May 8, based on a complaint by the 17-year-old's mother alleging sexual exploitation. His mobile phone has been switched off for the past three days.

Cyberabad Police confirmed that teams are actively analysing his call detail records to trace his whereabouts. The petition has been listed before the High Court's vacation bench for hearing on May 14.

Separately, the Cyberabad Police issued a notice directing Bhageerath to appear before investigators on Wednesday, along with his maternal uncle.

The legal move comes a day after Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy expressed displeasure at DGP C V Anand over perceived delays in acting on the FIR.

Kukatpally DCP Ritiraj, who is supervising the probe, is preparing to record the girl's statement once again.

Four cheetah cubs found dead in Kuno; official says 'predation' case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Four India-born cheetah cubs were killed on Tuesday, "possibly by another animal," in Sheopur forest adjacent to Kuno National Park — a setback to the country's much-talked-about cheetah translocation programme.

The one-month-old cubs were found dead around 6.30 am, their bodies partially eaten, near the den site in the Sheopur territorial division of Madhya Pradesh, an official said. The 26-month-old mother, an India-born female, is safe and healthy.

"Prima facie, the incident appears to be predation by another animal. Further details will be known after post-mortem examination and detailed investigation," the official said.

Ex-armyman who killed 3 shot dead in UP

LUCKNOW, DHNS

A retired armyman, who allegedly shot dead three people in a span of 26 hours in Uttar Pradesh, was gunned down in an 'encounter' with the police barely hours after his arrest.

The killer was identified as Gurpreet Singh (46), a resident of Amritsar, Punjab, who had retired from the army six years ago.

The encounter took place on Monday night, when Singh was being taken to Sakaldiha village to recreate a crime scene.

According to sources, Singh snatched a pistol from a policeman and attempted to flee by firing at the team. He was killed in retaliatory firing by the police late on Monday night. Three police personnel were injured in the encounter.

Singh carried out his first murder on May 10 while travelling between Prayagraj and Chandauli, the police said.

In the morning, Singh allegedly killed a man named Mangru, a resident of Zamania in the Ghazipur district of UP.

Subsequently, around 2.00 am on May 11, Singh shot another passenger in the head while travelling on the Jammu-Tawi Express.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

I WONDER IF SPRING WILL EVER GET HERE
I'M READY FOR IT TO WARM UP SO I CAN GET OUT THERE AND ENJOY NATURE!
WHAT'S STOPPING YOU FROM GOING OUT NOW, DEAR?
SNOWY GOLF COURSES!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

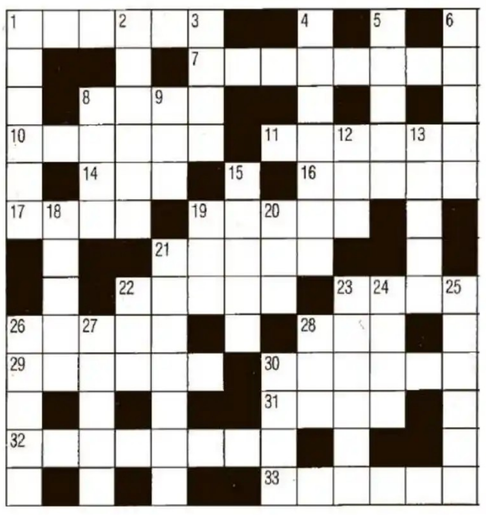
Peanuts

NOW, LOOK, YOU STUPID BEAGLE...
BEETHOVEN'S BIRTHDAY IS THIS SATURDAY! I WANT MY BOOK IN ALL THE STORES BY THEN
SO GET TYPING!!
IF WE CHANGED THE NAME TO BACH, IT WOULD GO FASTER

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12415

CRYPTIC



ACROSS
1 Fruit by the pound if you want one (6)
7 The loneliness of Duke Ellington (8)
8 Bird or fox? (4)
10 James the playwright's little girl (6)
11 The struggle to the first on Earth, possibly? (6)
14 After deduction, less than nineteen (3)
16 Stick at your task of not getting out! (5)
17 Rare deformity of the back (4)
19 Of a pair, the one spoiling most of the game with an own goal (5)
21 Hang around for a time outside the help centre (5)
22 Warm-hearted little chap, wonderfully watchful (5)
23 The majority of shops closing during a test (4)
26 Like something grey, or hay, maybe (5)
28 It's great ñ double so, to go without nothing (3)
29 Veterans making lemon squash around World's End (3,3)
30 It's fat and starts high and finishes low (6)
31 Such fellows may merely figure to lie around (4)
32 Ill-disposed to put files in order (8)
33 Recently finished stamp-collecting (6)

DOWN
1 In breaking a rule, a doctor will not move fast (6)
2 See Durer, possibly, as not so refined! (6)
3 Piece of land in Chiselhurst (4)
4 There's something elevating about this lad (7)
5 An old army measure of length (5)
6 The old-fashioned fellows in the country (5)
8 She'll always have a drink with one (4)
9 Came down and brightened up (3)
12 A joke, maybe, but it's old material (3)
13 Jesters performing a loud solo? (5)
15 It's worth having a community centre in a low area (5)
18 Praise one's former partner up a lot (5)
19 Bit of a good-time girl? (3)
20 Talk a lot and hang up (3)
21 Not emotionally affected by blurred vision (3-4)
22 A marine weapon? (3)
23 Seedy looking artist? (6)
24 Look to go back half a mile (4)
25 Cheap way to get dry after a bit of a storm, say (6)
26 The property game (5)
27 Maid upset over starting trouble, you'll agree (5)
28 Fish up what's faulty (3)
30 Wherein Eulenspiegel kept his cash? (4)

ACROSS
1 Yellow fruit (6)
7 Australian city (8)
8 Unclothed (4)
10 Shore bird (6)
11 Tempt (6)
14 Soft wet earth (3)
16 Unfashionable (5)
17 Recedes (4)
19 Anteroom (5)
21 Thin biscuit (5)
22 The Evil One (5)
23 Quick or furtive look (4)
26 Strength (5)
28 Slope downwards (3)
29 Stick or hold fast (6)
30 Niche (6)
31 Girl's name (4)
32 Fire raiser (8)
33 Holy (6)

DOWN
1 Be on one's guard (6)
2 Counting frame (6)
3 Assist in a crime (4)
4 In pieces (7)
5 Unspoken (5)
6 Surrendered (5)
8 Explosive device (4)
9 Colour (3)
12 Pitch (3)
13 Stop (5)
15 As yet (2,3)
18 Vital fluid (5)
19 Corpulence (3)
20 Monetary unit (3)
21 Authorisation (7)
22 Observe (3)
23 Food eaten outside (6)
24 Fencing sword (4)
25 Went by (6)
26 Heathen (5)
27 Card game (5)
28 Lair (3)
30 Rodents (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12414

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Speed 6, Es-s-ay 9, VI-O-lent 10, To-wed 11, Go-uge 12, Scalp 13, Rever-I-e 15, Meg 17, En-I-d 18, Assure 19, Sy-LP-h 20, US-eful 22, (R-)Oast(-ing) 24, Sus 25, Co.-up-les 26, Amman 27, Viola 28, Poles 29, A-rcades 30, Messy 31, Texas.
DOWN: 2, Pr-oven 3, Even-Ed 4, Did 5, Slice 6, English 7, Stop 8, Angler 12, S-ib-yl 13, Re-bus 14, Vices 15, M-ur-al 16, Gents 18, Apron 19, Sum-Mary 21, Supine 22, Op.-pose 23, Serena 25, Carat 26, Alas 28, Pet.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Stick 6, Audio 9, Aimless 10, Trust 11, Sends 12, Radar 13, Abandon 15, Met 17, Oslo 18, Cloudy 19, Snout 20, Tooted 22, Sage 24, Apt 25, Settles 26, Gents 27, Poser 28, Colin 29, Natural 30, Bevel 31, Plain.
DOWN: 2, Throbs 3, Casino 4, Kit 5, Clean 6, Assault 7, User 8, Indeed 12, Round 13, Aorta 14, Allot 15, Mural 16, Types 18, Cures 19, Several 21, Oppose 22, Stroll 23, Gemini 25, Stout 26, Gene 28, Cap.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6904 ◆

			2					6
				3		4		
					6	1	2	8
	2			5		3		1
	5						6	
4		1		9			8	
5	8	6	3					
		7		1				
2					4			

hard

SOLUTION TO 6903

1	2	4	8	3	5	7	6	9
3	7	6	4	2	9	1	5	8
9	8	5	6	1	7	4	2	3
7	5	9	1	4	6	3	8	2
2	1	3	9	7	8	5	4	6
4	6	8	2	5	3	9	7	1
5	3	1	7	8	2	6	9	4
6	4	2	5	9	1	8	3	7
8	9	7	3	6	4	2	1	5

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							Triple Word Score	RACK 1
Z10	T1	D2	E1	O1	N1	H4		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 2
A1	M3	J8	N1	S1	E1	I1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 3
A1	A1	Y4	P3	S1	L1	R1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 4
T1	D2	N1	M3	A1	A1	A1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 5
W4	W4	A1	O1	K5	R1	X8		

PAR SCORE 325-335
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

L1	A1	N1	G2	U1	O1	R1	RACK 1 =	74
P3	R1	I1	V4	A1	T1	E1	RACK 2 =	62
O1	U1	T1	L1	A1	I1	D2	RACK 3 =	58
P3	E1	A1	K5	I1	S1	H4	RACK 4 =	76
							JUDD'S TOTAL	270

PAR SCORE 175-185

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

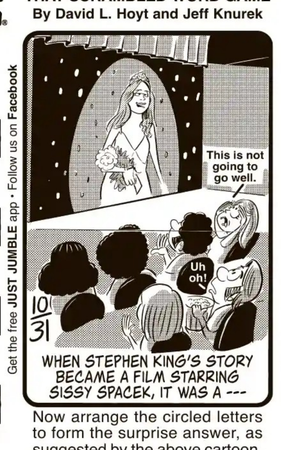
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RFMOU

CUJIE

LTIVEY

RFSIAA



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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"○○○○○○○○○○" ○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SADLY STRUM TURNIP ENTICE
Answer: The ghost didn't get along well with others because he was — MEAN-SPIRITED

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HITORI-3358

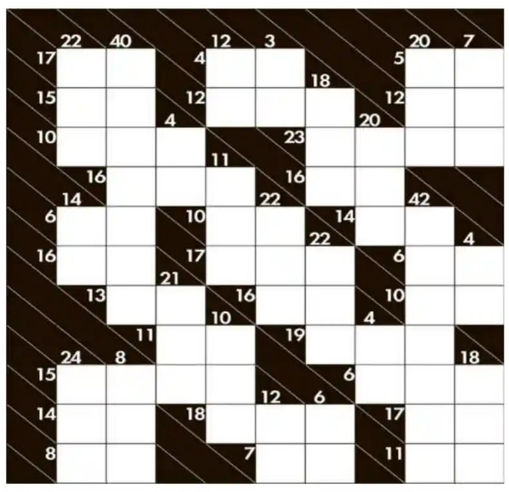
4	4	1	7	4	8	6	4
7	8	4	6	5	3	6	6
5	4	6	1	8	4	3	4
1	3	8	2	4	5	4	8
8	8	5	4	2	1	4	3
6	4	8	3	8	7	1	2
3	6	7	8	4	2	8	8
6	4	3	8	8	4	2	4

SOLUTION TO 3357

3	4	2	8	■	5	7	6
■	7	4	2	5	1	■	3
4	2	■	5	■	8	6	■
■	8	5	■	6	4	■	7
8	■	1	7	■	3	4	2
2	3	8	■	7	6	■	1
1	■	3	4	■	7	5	■
■	1	7	3	4	■	2	5

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3358



SOLUTION TO 3357

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3914

■					2	9	3	5
8	■						■	
		■		5		■		
3			■	8	■			
	1			■				
2			■		■			
	7	■	9			4	2	
	■		6	4		3	■	
■	4		5		3			■

SOLUTION TO 3913

2	1	3	5	4	8	6	9	7
6	7	5	9	3	1	2	4	8
4	9	8	7	6	2	1	3	5
9	5	7	1	2	6	3	8	4
8	2	1	3	9	4	7	5	6
3	4	6	8	7	5	9	1	2
1	8	2	6	5	3	4	7	9
7	3	4	2	8	9	5	6	1
5	6	9	4	1	7	8	2	3

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

US military presence part of talks, says Greenland

COPENHAGEN, REUTERS: Greenland's prime minister said on Tuesday that increasing the United States military presence in the Arctic territory was part of ongoing negotiations with Washington, as the United States' desire to own or control the territory remains alive.

President Donald Trump's assertion that the US must acquire or control Greenland, a semi-autonomous Danish territory, has sparked tension between Washington, Nuuk and Copenhagen, and more broadly within the NATO military alliance.

"From the beginning, one of the issues has been that they don't think we do enough in terms of national security and surveillance in our region, so security and more military presence in Greenland is part of the discussions," Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen told reporters in Copenhagen.

Starmer remains defiant in face of rebellion

Four junior ministers resign as pressure grows on UK PM

LONDON, AP/PTI

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer meets construction apprentices during a visit to London South Bank Technical College in London on Tuesday. REUTERS

Prime Minister Keir Starmer appeared to have fended off an immediate challenge to his leadership after a high-stakes Cabinet meeting on Tuesday morning, but he remained under mounting political pressure as a growing number of Labour lawmakers and junior ministers demanded that he announce plans to step down.

At the Cabinet meeting, Starmer challenged his critics to formally move against him if they had enough support, telling ministers: "The country expects us to get on with governing," according to a statement from his office.

While supporters who attended the meeting said there had been no direct challenge to his leadership during the discussions, uncertainty continued to hang over his future as unrest within the Labour Party intensified.

Starmer has been facing a fast-moving rebellion after Labour suffered major losses in last week's local elections in England and parliamentary elections in Scotland and Wales. According to the BBC, at least 80 Labour MPs —roughly one-fifth of the parliamentary party—have called on him either to resign or to set out a timeline for stepping down.

The pressure on the prime minister escalated further as a series of junior ministers resigned from the government on Tuesday. Miatta Fahnbulleh resigned just as the Cabinet meeting began. Later in the day, Jess Phillips also stepped down, saying Starmer was "a good man fundamentally" but had failed to fight strongly enough for Labour values.

Soon afterwards, Alex Davies-Jones resigned from her role in the justice department, adding to the growing pressure on the prime minister. "We have needed to do more and therefore it is with a very heavy heart that I feel I have no choice but to resign," Davies-Jones said in a letter addressed to Starmer.

Later on Tuesday, junior health minister Zubir Ahmed also resigned in protest at Starmer's leadership, becoming the latest government member to quit amid the widening revolt. "It is clear to see that whatever the magnitude of individual achievements and progress, they are now being dwarfed and undermined by a lack of values-driven leadership at the centre," Ahmed said in a resignation letter posted on X.

"It is clear from recent days that the public across the UK has now irretrievably lost confidence in you as Prime Minister," he added. Attention has now shifted to Wes Streeting, the health secretary, who has made little secret of his ambition to challenge Starmer. However, he would need the backing of at least 81 Labour MPs to formally trigger a leadership contest. It remained unclear on Tuesday whether Streeting or any other potential challenger had enough support.

Some of Starmer's fiercest critics do not want him to leave office immediately, but instead want him to announce that he will step down in the autumn. That would give Labour time to organise a leadership contest that could include Andy Burnham, who is seen as gaining political momentum.

173 Indians held in Sri Lanka cybercrime crackdown

COLOMBO, PTI: As many as 173 Indians are among nearly 200 foreigners arrested in Sri Lanka as part of the latest drive in an ongoing crackdown on cybercrime operations, police said on Tuesday.

A group of 198 foreigners, comprising 173 Indians and 25 Nepali nationals, were arrested in the southern resort areas of Galle, Hikkaduwa and Midigama late on Monday. Those arrested, aged between 25 and 35, will be charged with abusing tourist visas by overstaying and seeking employment, possessing duty-free imported cigarettes, and engaging in activities covered under cybercrime laws, police said.

The latest arrests came after last week's arrest of 250 Chinese nationals for the same offence. Till May 5, 628 foreigners had been arrested in the island nation since the start of the year for cybercrime operations while temporarily located in the country. Indians, Chinese, Vietnamese, Myanmar, Philippines and Cambodia nationals are among those arrested. Officials say such groups are often part of wider international syndicates that target victims abroad using digital platforms and communication systems.

Law enforcement agencies have often suggested that Sri Lanka's connectivity and visa access likely contributed to making it vulnerable to such activities, with some suspects accused of entering the country on short-term permits.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

United States President Donald Trump boards Air Force One for a trip to China at the Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, US, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Nigerian military airstrike kills 100, says rights group

▶ Nigeria's military on Tuesday denied a rights group's claim that an airstrike killed 100 civilians at a market over the weekend, drawing renewed attention to the country's long-running conflict with armed groups in its volatile north, AP/PTI reports from Abuja.

Amnesty International said in a statement on Monday that a military airstrike on Sunday struck a market in Tumfa in Zamfara state. A Red Cross official in the state, Ibrahim Bello Garba, confirmed the strike to The Associated Press and said "multiple civilians" were killed. "In one village alone, 80 people were buried and there is no evidence that any of those killed were bandits. They were all civilians. The majority of them were young girls and small boys," Isa Sanusi told the AP. Nigeria's military confirmed that an airstrike had taken place but said "no verifiable evidence of civilian casualties, as being suggested in the media, has been established".

"Civilians are not the target, and everything is being done to avoid civilian casualties," military spokesperson Maj Gen Michael Onoja said, adding that operations in the area were continuing.

Eight killed in Pak suicide blast

▶ At least eight people, including two security officials, were killed and 35 others injured when a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-filled vehicle in northwest Pakistan on Tuesday, PTI reports from Peshawar.

The incident occurred in the Lakki Marwat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. A district police official said the suicide bomber detonated his explosives-laden three-wheeler auto-rickshaw at Phattak Chowk in Naurang Bazaar. Two traffic police personnel and a woman were among those killed, officials said, adding that 35 others were injured and taken to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital in Sarai Naurang for treatment.

Russia's Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile is tested at an unidentified location on Tuesday. Russia is modernising its nuclear forces, and the launch was hailed by President Vladimir Putin as the "most powerful missile in the world". REUTERS

Man fires at drivers near Boston

▶ A man armed with an assault-style rifle fired randomly at passing vehicles while walking along a busy road outside Boston, wounding two people and sending drivers scrambling before he was shot by a trooper and a former Marine, AP/PTI reports from Boston.

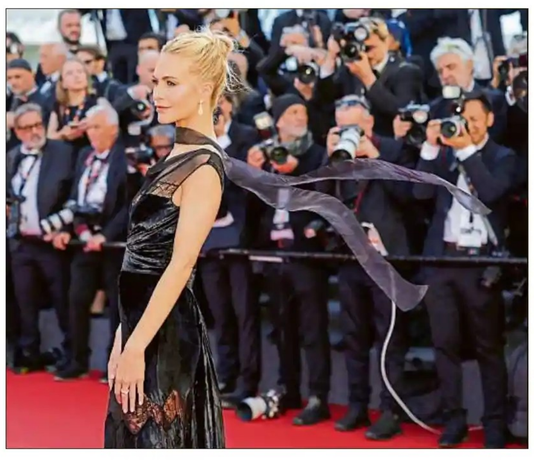
As bullets tore through at least a dozen vehicles, including a state police cruiser, panicked motorists abandoned their cars or hid beneath them for cover. He fired over 60 rounds during Monday afternoon's attack. The shooting took place along the Charles River in Cambridge, home to Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Indian tourist dies in Thailand

▶ An Indian national, who was among four tourists hospitalised after mysteriously losing consciousness at a cafe in Thailand's Phuket, has died, the Indian embassy here said on Tuesday, PTI reports from Bangkok.

The circumstances surrounding the death were not immediately clear. The embassy said it had been in touch with the Thai authorities and was closely monitoring the incident in which four Indian tourists fell unconscious in Phuket on May 9 and were subsequently hospitalised for treatment.

"Our deepest condolences for the death of one young Indian tourist among them," the Indian mission said in a post on X.



Actress Poppy Delevingne poses on the red carpet at the 79th Cannes Film Festival in France on Tuesday. REUTERS

Hormuz may stay shut through late May: US

Fuel price forecasts raised as oil supplies remain stranded

NEW YORK, REUTERS

The Epaminondas ship is seized by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in the Strait of Hormuz. REUTERS FILE PHOTO

The US Department of Energy's statistical arm on Tuesday said it assumes that the Strait of Hormuz will remain effectively shut through late May and that traffic will resume gradually from next month, prompting the agency to raise its forecasts for fuel prices.

Iran's chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz in its ongoing war with the US and Israel has upended global energy markets, as millions of barrels per day of West Asian energy exports have been stranded, fueling concerns over fuel shortages around the world.

In the US, prices for gasoline, diesel and other fuels have hit multi-year highs, posing a major political challenge for President Donald Trump just months ahead of the midterm elections in November.

The US Energy Information Administration now expects US retail gasoline prices to average $3.88 a gallon this year, about 18 cents higher than its prior forecast issued in April, according to the agency's monthly short-term energy outlook report. The forecast assumes that Hormuz will remain effectively closed through late May before a gradual reopening begins next month, the EIA said.

Traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, which before the war accounted for a fifth of global oil supplies, is not expected to return to pre-conflict levels until later this year, the EIA said. Some 10.5 million barrels per day of crude oil output was shut in during April across Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain, the EIA said.

Meanwhile, Iraq and Pakistan have cut deals to ship oil and liquefied natural gas from the Gulf, according to five sources.

US sanctions Indian pharmacy owner, 13 aides

WASHINGTON, PTI

The US on Tuesday imposed visa restrictions on the owner and business associates of an India-based online pharmacy accused of trafficking illicit fentanyl to Americans.

"The US Department of State is taking steps to impose visa restrictions on 13 individuals associated with KS International Traders and its owner, which has sold counterfeit prescriptions laced with illicit fentanyl to unsuspecting Americans in our country," State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said in a statement here.

Pigott said that the KS International Traders generated revenue through the trafficking of illicit fentanyl, which President Donald Trump designated as a Weapon of Mass Destruction under an executive order.

He said this action is taken under Section 212(a)(3)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. "This action underscores the United States' and India's enduring and shared commitment to dismantling illicit drug entities and disrupting trafficking networks that harm Americans. Those complicit in poisoning Americans will be denied entry to the United States," Pigott said.

In September last year, the US sanctioned two Indian nationals and an online pharmacy for supplying counterfeit fentanyl-laced pills that fuelled America's opioid crisis. The Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) on September 24 designated: Sadiq Abbas Habib Sayyed, Khizar Mohammad Iqbal Shaikh, and KS International Traders (also known as KS Pharmacy), an online pharmacy run by Shaikh.

Both men, based in India, allegedly worked with traffickers in the US and the Dominican Republic to market counterfeit pills as legitimate pharmaceutical products. In reality, the pills were laced with fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, and methamphetamine.

Israel approves tribunal for Oct 7 attackers

JERUSALEM, AP/PTI: Israeli lawmakers approved a bill on Monday establishing a special tribunal that would try and sentence to death Palestinians convicted of taking part in the 2023 Hamas-led attack that triggered the war in Gaza.

The measure passed 93-0 in the 120-seat Knesset, reflecting widespread support for punishing those found responsible for what was the deadliest attack in Israel's history. The remaining 27 lawmakers were either absent or abstained from voting. Rights groups said it makes the death penalty easier to impose while also removing procedures designed to safeguard the right to a fair trial.

Defendants can appeal their sentences, but the appeals must be heard by a separate special appeals court. Because the bill empowers a panel of judges to hand down the death penalty by majority vote — and requires the trials to be conducted in a livestreamed courtroom in Jerusalem — it has drawn comparisons with the 1962 trial of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann.

PROVISION OF FIBERS OFC

Tender Notice No.: N_01_HQ-2026-27; Date: 08-05-2026. E-tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; Tender No.: N_01_HQ-2026-27; **Name of the Work**: Provision of 4 ×48 fibers OFC for communication backbone in section Siliguri Jn. (SGUJ) - New Mal Jn. (NMZ) - Maynaguri Road (MYGD) - New Coochbehar (NCB)-Golakganj (GKJ) (271 RKM) under HUN6 Route covered in sanctioned KAVACH works. **Advertised Value:** ₹27,07,07,990.71; **Earnest Money:** ₹54,14,200.00. **E-tender will be closed at** 12.00 hrs. on 09-06-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in www.ireps.gov.in.

PCSTE/Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

DRM/ENGG, South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur acting for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. Manual Offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl.No.**-1. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-CENTRAL-26-27-08, Date: 11.05.2026. Name of work:** Provision of Standard Height Gauge for 3 nos. of Level Crossings (viz. RB-14, RB-15 and BK-3) under the jurisdiction of DEN/Central in Chakradharpur Division. **Tender Value:** ₹ 39,76,117.19. **EMD:** ₹ 79,500. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-CENTRAL-26-27-09, Date: 11.05.2026. Name of work:** (I) Construction of badminton court at Chakradharpur and (II) Renovation of AICTC Training Hostel at Chakradharpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,03,00,471.14. **EMD:** ₹ 2,06,000. **Sl.No.**-3. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-CENTRAL-26-27-10, Date: 11.05.2026. Name of work:** (I) CTR (P) for 13.702 KM new 60 KG 260 Mtr Rail on PSC (RT - 8746) (1660 Nos./KM) (Existing PSC Sleepers) in between A - Cabin Bondamunda-Bimalgarh-Barsuan under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Bondamunda. (II) Casual Sleeper Renewal (CSR) between Patasahi-Bimalgarh Up/Line KM: 451.752-452.821 = 1.069 KMs under the jurisdiction of SSE/P.WAY/Dumerta Unit. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,88,19,822.88. **EMD:** ₹ 5,76,400. **Sl.No.**-4. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-EAST-26-27-09, Date: 11.05.2026. Name of work:** Construction of LHS in lieu of existing manned level crossing No.137 at Km. 242/23-25 between section Asanboni - Salgajhari. **Tender Value:** ₹7,29,09,927.79. **EMD:** ₹ 14,58,200. **Cost of Tender form:** ₹ 0 (for Sl.No. 1 to 4 each). **Date of Opening:** 05.06.2026 (for Sl.No. 1) & 09.06.2026 (for Sl.No. 2 to 4 each). The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer/bidders must have class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **Note:** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority– Railway Board's letter no. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). **(PR-160)**

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. : 222-S/1/W-II, Dated: 08.05.2026. Following E-tenders are invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata - 700 014 for the following works: **Sl. No.1, Tender No.: TN-18-26-27, Name of the Work:** Raising of platform at Tala, Park Circus, Lake Gardens, Majerhat (Total=07 nos.) with cement concreting with all ancillary works under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer(HQ)/Sealdah. **Tender value:** Rs. 2,88,78,187.15. **EMD:** Rs.5,77,600/- **Sl. No.2, Tender No.: TN-19-26-27, Name of the Work:** Provision of platform shed at Majerhat, Park Circus, Santoshpur, Tala etc. over Sealdah Division under Divisional Engineer(HQ)/Sealdah. **Tender value:** Rs. 3,30,21,853.41. **EMD:** Rs. 6,60,400/-. **Sl. No.3, Tender No.: TN-22-26-27, Name of the Work:** Different Track Maintenance work along with all ancillary work in the jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer [P. Way]/Beliaghata under Assistant Engineer/ Ballygunge. **Tender value:** Rs. 93,03,821.74. **EMD:** Rs. 1,86,100/-. **Completion period for the work:** 12 (Twelve) months [For Sl. No. 1, 2 &3]. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** 05.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of Tender:** 05.06.2026 at 15.30 hrs. The Tender Documents and other details are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in**. The bidding is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. As per Indian Railway Standard General Conditions of Contract 2022, cost of e-Tender Form is Nil.

SDAH-36/2026-27

Tender Notices are also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

For and on behalf of President of India, Principal Chief Electical Engineer, Southern Railway, Chennai-03, invites e-tender for the following work. The tender shall be submitted online upto 15.00 hrs on 23.06.2026 through website : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored and summarily rejected. Bidders are requested to go through the details such as per-bid conference, submission of original documents, Bid security etc. in the attached tender documents.

EMD and Tender forms cost (TFC) are to be paid online through IREPS portal **(www.ireps.gov.in)** and no manual payment will be accepted for this tender.

Tender No. : E28III-Solar Land-RESCO-3
Name of work : Setting up of Land based Solar Power Plant over Southern Railway under Developer (RESCO) mode.
App. Cash Value Rs. : 378,07,69,625.60/-
Earnest Money Deposit : Rs.3,09,72,000.00/-
Period of completion : 240 Days.

Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and the tender documents are available in the website **www.ireps.gov.in** and the tenderers are advised to refer the same. Tenderers are also advised to quote their rates inclusive of GST.

Chief Electrical General Engineer,
O/o Principal Chief Electrical Engineer, Chennai-600003
(for and on behalf of President of India)

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची
अति अल्पकालीन ई–पर्नुनिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
PR No. 335182 REO (24-25):D

पत्रांकः– दिनांक–

अति अल्पकालीन ई–पुर्ननिविदा संख्याः–13/II/2026-27/RWD /EE/RANCHI

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या/ पैकेज संख्या	प्रखण्ड	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि/ अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल नं0
1	RWD/RANCHI/ 43/STPKG/23 / 2024-25	नामकुम	दस माईल अलीपुर मोड़ से बुमरू भाया सहेदा तक पथ सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (ल0– 2.100 कि0मी0)	12,32,87, 500.00	बारह करोड़ बत्तीस लाख सतासी हजार पाँच सौ रूपये मात्र।	15 माह	द्वितीय
		नामकुम	बगीचा टोली से चितवादाग तक पथ सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (ल0–2.425 कि0मी0)				
		नामकुम	सोदाग से टंगटंगटोली तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (ल0–3.700 कि0मी0)				
		नामकुम	घुटिया नदी से सोदाग पंचायत भवन तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य।(ल0– 2.550 कि0मी0)				
		नामकुम	एन0एच0–33 लदनापीड़ी से हेसापीरी भाया हहाप लतराडीह तक पथ सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (ल0– 6.350 कि0मी0)				
		नामकुम	रामपुर पंचायत लुपुंगटोली से घासीटोली तक पथ सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (ल0– 3.800 कि0मी0)				
		नामकुम	खरसीदाग रिंग रोड से बालेटोली भाया खरसीदाग बस्ती देवगांई पथ तक पथ सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (ल0– 2.850 कि0मी0)				

1. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:–15.05.2026
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समयः–23.05.2026 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समयः–25.05.2026 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
4. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पताः– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची।
5. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0651–2360137

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची

PR 379634 REO(26-27)D

Biz Bytes

Dr Reddy's Q4 PAT down 86% at Rs 221.3 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Drugmaker Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd on Tuesday reported an 86% dip in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 221.3 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026, hit by lower generics sales in North America.

The company had posted a PAT of Rs 1,586.7 crore in the corresponding quarter previous fiscal, Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated total revenue from operations in the fourth quarter stood at Rs 7,546.4 crore, as against Rs 8,528.4 crore in the same period a year ago, it added.

Revenue from generic drugs in North America in the quarter was down 51% at Rs 1,756.2 crore, compared to Rs 3,558.6 crore in the year-ago period.

Tata Power Q4 net grows 8% to Rs 1,416 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI: Tata Power on Tuesday posted over 8% rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,415.52 crore during the March quarter of FY2025-26, supported by lower expenses.

It had reported a net profit of Rs 1,306.09 crore in the year-ago period, the company said in a filing.

During the January-March quarter, total income fell to Rs 15,455.48 crore, from Rs 17,446.95 crore in Q4 FY25. The company's EBIDTA rose 10% YoY to Rs 4,216 crore in Q4FY26. For the entire financial year, EBITDA rose 11% to Rs 16,090 crore.

HrdWyr raises $13 million Series-A fund

BENGALURU, DHNS: Fabless semiconductor product company HrdWyr has closed a $13 million Series-A funding round, led by Bengaluru-based Ideaspring Capital with participation from Singularity AMC, Avatar Growth Capital, and Persistent Systems. The funding will accelerate the development of the company's AI-native System-on-Chip (AISoC) products and expand customer engagements across key global markets.

HrdWyr operates as a full-stack, fabless semiconductor product company, differentiated from traditional IP licensing or services-led models.

Rupee sinks to fresh record low against $

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee depreciated 40 paise to close at a fresh all-time low of 95.68 against the US dollar on Tuesday, as renewed tensions between the US and Iran has led to risk aversion in global markets.

At the interbank forex, the rupee opened at 95.57 and lost further ground to touch an all-time intraday low of 95.74 against the American currency.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 98.28, up 0.33%.

Air India Express gets Skytrax rating

NEW DELHI, PTI: Air India Express on Tuesday said it has received a four-star rating from Skytrax for overall good performance across various parameters, including product standards and staff service.

In a release, the airline said it has received the four-star world airline rating following its first ever comprehensive audit by Skytrax, adding that it represents the highest attainable recognition for a value carrier.

RISING BUDGETS: El Nino conditions to spike prices in coming months

Retail inflation in April rises to 14-month high of 3.48%

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's annual retail inflation rose to a 14-month high of 3.48% in April, driven by higher food prices, as per official data on Tuesday.

The Consumer Price Index-based (CPI) retail inflation with base year 2024 stood at 3.4% in March.

Inflation firmed up in April largely due to the jump in food prices. Retail food inflation rose to 4.2% in April, from 3.87% recorded in the previous month, data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation showed.

Despite the surge in global energy prices amid the West Asia conflict, fuel inflation remained muted due to base effect.

Fuel price passthrough remained variable, with transport reflecting negative inflation, while costlier commercial LPG reflecting in higher cost for restaurant services that increased to 4.2% in April, from 2.88% in March.

Personal care and miscellaneous goods recorded the sharpest inflation at 17.66% during the month under review, while transport inflation remained flat at -0.01%, reflecting softer fuel-linked costs. Price rise was sharper in rural areas. Rural inflation rose to 3.74% in April, while urban inflation stood at 3.16%.

Rural food inflation jumped to 4.26%, while urban food inflation stood at 4.10%.

From a regional perspective, the South recorded the highest inflation. Telangana led with 5.81%, while other states (Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, except Keralam) recorded at least 4%.

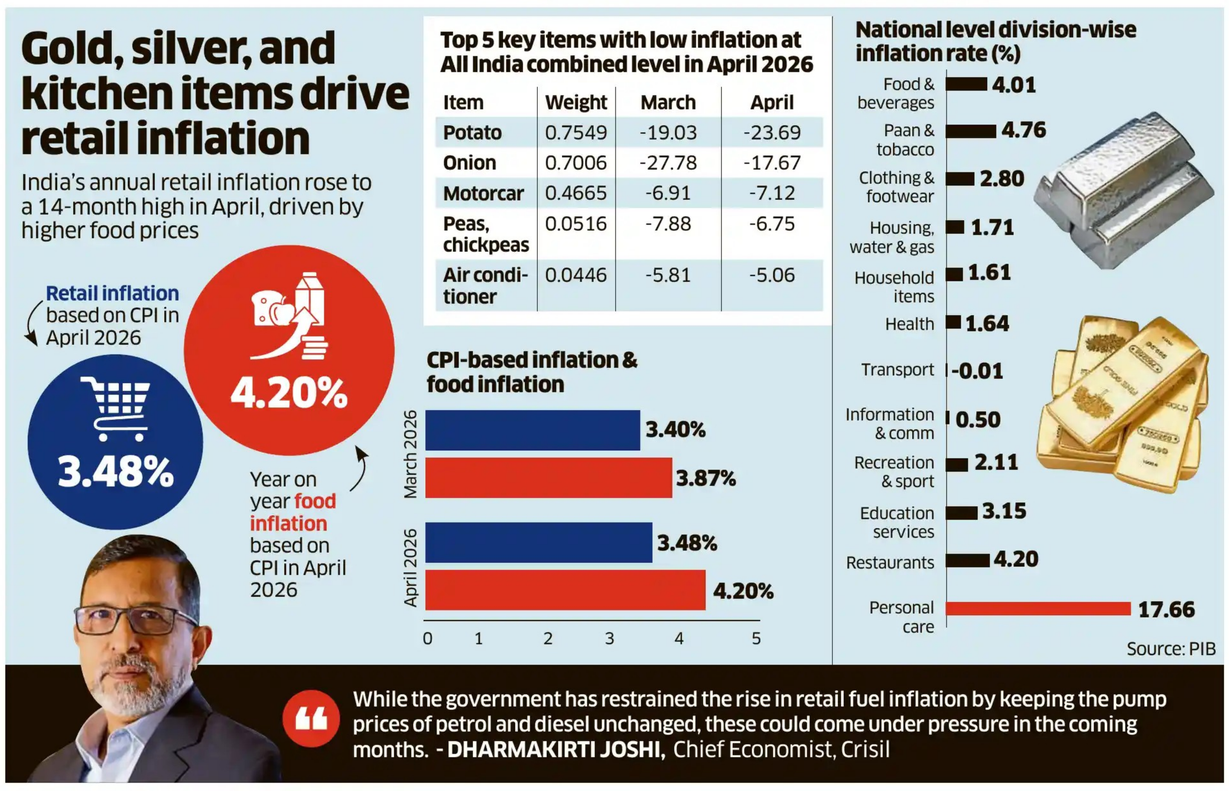
Analysts said inflation is likely to firm up further in the coming months due to high energy costs and below-normal Monsoon rain.

"Geopolitical tensions and El Nino conditions continue to remain as upside risks to inflation," said Megha Arora, Director, India Ratings and Research.

"While the government has restrained the rise in retail fuel inflation by keeping the pump prices of petrol and diesel unchanged, these could come under pressure in the coming months," said Crisil Chief Economist Dharmakirti Joshi.

According to Crisil, CPI inflation is expected to average 5.1% in the current fiscal, sharply higher than 2% recorded in 2025-26.

"While food prices have nudged higher by around 30 basis points, overall transportation prices have actually eased. This is largely on account of easing prices for the services sector, while prices of transport of goods have increased by 7.6% in the month," said Rajni Thakur, Chief Economist, L&T Finance. Rural inflation at 3.74% is at 15-month high and with around 90% YoY increase in the price of Indian crude basket in April, some spillover to the domestic price pressure is imminent in the coming months, Thakur added.


Gold, silver, and kitchen items drive retail inflation
India's annual retail inflation rose to a 14-month high in April, driven by higher food prices
Retail inflation based on CPI in April 2026
4.20%
3.48%
Year on year food inflation based on CPI in April 2026
Top 5 key items with low inflation at All India combined level in April 2026
Item | Weight | March | April
Potato | 0.7549 | -19.03 | -23.69
Onion | 0.7006 | -27.78 | -17.67
Motorcar | 0.4665 | -6.91 | -7.12
Peas, chickpeas | 0.0516 | -7.88 | -6.75
Air conditioner | 0.0446 | -5.81 | -5.06
CPI-based inflation & food inflation
March 2026
3.40%
3.87%
April 2026
3.48%
4.20%
0 1 2 3 4 5
National level division-wise inflation rate (%)
Food & beverages 4.01
Paan & tobacco 4.76
Clothing & footwear 2.80
Housing, water & gas 1.71
Household items 1.61
Health 1.64
Transport -0.01
Information & comm 0.50
Recreation & sport 2.11
Education services 3.15
Restaurants 4.20
Personal care 17.66
Source: PIB
While the government has restrained the rise in retail fuel inflation by keeping the pump prices of petrol and diesel unchanged, these could come under pressure in the coming months. - DHARMAKIRTI JOSHI, Chief Economist, Crisil

Moody's lowers India's 2026 growth forecast to 6%

NSO to release FY26 GDP data on June 5

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Moody's on Tuesday lowered its forecast on India's GDP growth for 2026 by 80 basis points to 6%, citing weaker private consumption, slower investments and high energy costs amid the West Asia tensions.

In its latest Global Macro Outlook, the rating agency said the impact of the global supply-chain disruptions would linger in 2027, impacting growth.

For CY2027 too, Moody's expects India's GDP to remain at 6%, which is 0.5 percentage point lower than its earlier projection.

"Our central scenario projection of 6% growth in both 2026 and 2027, following 7.5% growth in 2025, reflects more subdued private consumption, capital formation, and industrial activity amid tighter financial conditions and higher energy costs," Moody's said in its report.

It noted that the impact of high energy prices and fuel and fertiliser-related shortages would vary widely across countries, depending on their exposure and resilience.

"The global outlook remains highly uncertain amid an increasingly prolonged confrontation and fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran," Moody's said in a report titled "Global Macro Outlook (May 2026 Update): Global energy market stress weighs on growth prospects".

Despite the slowdown, India will continue to hold its position as the fastest-growing major economies.

As per the latest National Statistics Office (NSO) data, India's GDP growth is estimated at 7.6% in FY2025-26. For the current fiscal, the RBI has pegged GDP growth at 6.9%.

However, several agencies have lowered their projections on India's GDP growth in recent weeks, citing the adverse impact of the high energy costs.

Crisil has lowered its forecast on India's economic growth for the current fiscal-nancial year to 6.6%. SBI Research has also pegged FY27 growth at 6.6%.

Meanwhile, the NSO on Tuesday revised its release schedule for GDP data. The national accounts data, which used to be released on the last working day of May, would be now released on June 7, or the previous working day if June 7 is a holiday.

The provisional estimates of GDP for FY2025-26 and quarterly estimates of GDP for the fourth quarter of 2025-26 is scheduled to be released on June 5.

Govt launches Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool to aid Indian vessels

NEW DELHI, PTI: The government on Tuesday launched the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool to provide risk cover to Indian vessels on international sea routes, including war and high-risk zones.

The Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool of $1.5 billion, with a sovereign guarantee of $1.4 billion, would facilitate continuous maritime insurance coverages, in the backdrop of West Asia tensions, the Finance Ministry said.

Handing over insurance policies to three companies, Department of Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju said global uncertainties have impacted trade flows, and due to the West Asia situation, insurance premiums have increased compared to pre-war levels.

"This is going to have a positive impact on trade flows currently and will have long-term benefits to the country. India is the only major country without the P&I (Protection and Indemnity) club. With this BMI Pool, we have also created a roadmap to form and strengthen the P&I club," Nagaraju added.

Nagaraju also stressed the need for reinsurance, besides P&I, for the maritime sector, and asked insurance companies to work with the Shipping Ministry to take forward the idea. He handed over the first Marine hull and machinery war policy document to Hoger Offshore and Marine Pvt Ltd, issued by the New India Assurance Co Ltd under BMIP, providing financial protection against war perils while navigating through high-risk warzones. Also, a Marine Cargo War Policy was presented to Vedanta Sterlite Copper Ltd, covering its import of cable wires. The policy was also issued to Balrampur Chini Mills Limited.

'OMCs face up to Rs 1L cr loss if fuel prices stay unchanged'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday warned that state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) could incur losses of as much as Rs 1 lakh crore in a single quarter, if global crude prices remain elevated, while retail fuel prices are kept unchanged.

Addressing the CII Annual Business Summit, Puri highlighted the growing fiscal strain on the sector, stating that oil companies are currently losing around Rs 1,000 crore a day. Cumulative under-recoveries on petrol, diesel, and domestic LPG have reached nearly Rs 1.98 lakh crore, with actual losses in the current quarter estimated at Rs 1 lakh crore—enough to wipe out the sector's annual profits.

"We have no supply-side problems," Puri said, emphasising that India entered the West Asia crisis with sufficient crude and LPG inventories.

Hardeep Singh Puri

Domestic LPG production has also been ramped up significantly to 54,000 tonnes per day, from around 36,000 tonnes earlier.

The minister refrained from confirming an imminent hike in retail prices, but noted that an assessment would eventually be needed on how long OMCs can continue absorbing losses. "How long will the oil companies be able to take it... frankly, that's something which worries me," he said.

Petrol and diesel prices have remained unchanged for the last four years at Rs 94.77 per litre and Rs 87.67 per litre, respectively (in Delhi), despite a roughly 50% surge in input costs.

Current losses stand at Rs 14 per litre on petrol, Rs 42 per litre on diesel, and Rs 674 per cylinder on LPG. Domestic LPG prices were last raised by Rs 60 per cylinder in March, but remain well-below cost. Since the outbreak of the conflict about 10 weeks ago, IOC, BPCL, and HPCL have maintained uninterrupted supplies, without resorting to rationing or sharp price increases seen in many other countries.

The minister described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent call for energy conservation and reduced imports as a "visionary" long-term approach.

Stock markets tank 2% amid elevated crude oil prices

MUMBAI, PTI

Equity benchmark indices ended lower for the fourth consecutive session on Tuesday, with the Sensex and Nifty tumbling nearly 2%, as a spike in crude oil prices and uncertainty surrounding the West Asia conflict clouded market confidence.

Unabated foreign fund outflows and the rupee depreciating to a lifetime low also impacted investor sentiment.

Amid a widespread sell-off, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 1,456.04 points, or 1.92%, to settle at 74,559.24. During the day, it dived 1,565.78 points, or 2%, to 74,449.50. A total of 3,412 stocks declined, while 869 advanced and 129 remained unchanged on the BSE. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 436.30 points, or 1.83%, to end at 23,379.55.

"Domestic equities remained under pressure, with the rupee weakening to record lows amid rising crude oil prices linked to escalating tensions in West Asia, along with FII outflows. The decline was broad-based, led by IT and realty stocks. IT stocks underperformed as concerns grew around AI-driven pricing pressure and potential disruption following recent enterprise adoption initiatives by OpenAI," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 2.75% higher at $107.1 per barrel.

MODERN TECH

'Clients increasingly investing in AI-enabled transformation'

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

AI-led productivity improvements are expected to influence pricing dynamics in certain parts of the IT services industry, particularly in traditional effort-based delivery models where automation can materially improve efficiency and speed, Rajsekhar Datta Roy, Chief Executive Officer of Sonata Software, told *DH*. However, he believes that the industry is fundamentally evolving toward a value- and outcome-led model driven by enterprise modernisation agendas.

"Clients today are increasingly investing in AI-enabled transformation to drive productivity, cost-optimisation, workflow automation, and legacy modernisation," Roy said.

While AI may create some pricing pressure in commoditised services, it is simultaneously expanding the overall opportunity landscape across modernisation, data platforms, AI enablement, and intelligent workflow transformation. Companies that successfully move up the value-chain and deliver measurable business outcomes will be well-positioned to drive sustainable growth and stronger client impact, he added.

The Bengaluru-based mid-tier IT services company in the fourth quarter ended March 2026 posted Rs 130 crore net profit, up 21.4% YoY compared to the year-ago period. Its consolidated revenues from operations declined 3.1% to Rs 2,536 crore, compared to Rs 2,617 crore in the same quarter last year.

When asked about the reasons for decline, the CEO said FY26 was impacted by a combination of macroeconomic uncertainty, client-specific ramp-downs in two accounts, and certain seasonal factors that affected revenue growth during the year. "However, despite these headwinds, Sonata demonstrated resilience both operationally and financially. Our international business continued to perform steadily outside of these specific accounts, supported by healthy large-deal momentum and continued client engagement across transformation programmes. Operationally, the business remained disciplined, with EBITDA improving by 1.5% YoY and PAT growing 18.7% for the full year," he said.

The company continues to see strong long-term commitment from clients toward technology modernisation and AI-led transformation initiatives. While discretionary spending remains measured in the near term, the strategic imperative around cloud modernisation, data platforms, automation, and AI-driven productivity enhancement remains firmly intact, he added.

"As we enter FY27, the momentum from large deals, combined with a healthy transformation-led pipeline, gives us confidence in our ability to navigate near-term uncertainties, while remaining well-positioned for long-term growth," he further said.

Large deals contribute 43% of the company's active pipeline. Its AI-led pipeline today stands at about $335 million, while Cloud and Data together account for nearly 57% of the overall pipeline.

Rajsekhar Datta Roy

40% of firms deploying AI to use observability tools: Gartner

BENGALURU, DHNS: By 2028, about 40% of organisations deploying AI will implement dedicated AI observability tools to monitor model performance, bias, and outputs, according to Gartner.

Analysts are exploring AI and observability trends at the Gartner IT Infrastructure, Operations and Cloud Strategies Conference in Sydney this week.

"AI is everywhere, but most organisations are still figuring out how to monitor and trust these systems," said Padraig Byrne, VP Analyst at Gartner. "That visibility gap makes scaling risky, and that's why observability matters. Unlike traditional software, AI's decision-making is often hidden, making it hard to explain or trust, yet errors can cause substantial financial loss, reputational damage and regulatory scrutiny," Byrne added.

Gartner defines observability as the characteristic of software and systems that enables them to be understood based on their outputs, allowing questions about their behaviour to be answered.

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
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Corrigendum Notice

Last date of uploading of bid documents, last date of online submission of tender fee and bid opening date of following tender notice no. is hereby revised as below :-

Sl. No.	NITs No.	Revised online bid uploading/ submission end date	Revised Last date of online submission of tender fee and EMD	Revised Technical bid opening date and time
1	72/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked 33 kV XLPE UG Cable 400sqmm	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	29.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.
2	73/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked 11 kV XLPE UG Cable 300sqmm	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	29.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.

Further details against the above NITs can be seen on website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9470378503/ 9430348596/ NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Only online payment mode of submission of Tender Fee & EMD will be accepted.

PR No. 379146

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।

PR.NO.379636 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(26-27):D

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Corrigendum Notice

Last date of uploading of bid documents, last date of online submission of tender fee and bid opening date of following tender notice no. is hereby revised as below :-

Sl. No.	NITs No.	Tender ID	Revised online bid uploading/ submission end date	Revised Last date of online submission of tender fee and EMD	Revised Technical bid opening date and time
1	69/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked LT XLPE AB Cable 3Cx120 + 1x70 + 1x16 sq.mm	2026_JSEB_113820_1	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	29.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.
2	70/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked LT XLPE AB Cable 3Cx95 + 1x70 + 1x16 sq.mm	2026_JSEB_113833_1	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	29.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.
3	71/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked LT XLPE AB Cable 3Cx50 + 1x35 + 1x16 sq.mm	2026_JSEB_113836_1	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	29.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.

Bidders are requested to submit bid only against above mentioned tender ID of respective NIT.

Further details against the above NITs can be seen on website http:jharkhandtenders .gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9470378503/ 9430348596/ NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Only online payment mode of submission of Tender Fee & EMD will be accepted.

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PR 379632 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(26-27).D

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EVENTS

Book talk
Eric Chopra will discuss her book on Delhi's haunted monuments, titled 'Ghosted', on May 13, 6.30 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre. org

Workshop
Chef Mithuran Chakravarthi will guide participants on how to create sugar-blown sculptures in a workshop titled 'Forbidden Desire' on May 16, 11 am, at Science Gallery Bengaluru, Ballari Road. To register, visit bengaluru.sciencegallery.com

Talk
Artist-curator Vishal Kumaraswamy will speak about his practice and projects rooted in anti-caste working principles on May 15, 6 pm, at MAP, Kasturba Road. The event is titled 'Towards a New Commons'. To register, visit map-india.org

Commute woes subject of new survey

The project aims to give citizens a better understanding of the public transport system

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

A citizen welfare initiative hopes to find and highlight the gaps in Bengaluru's public transport system.

Oorvani Foundation announced the Citizens Commute Project in April. It hopes to encourage and equip citizens with the tools to create a positive change. The Foundation was set up with the intention of addressing civic issues commonly faced by citizens and giving them a chance to play a role in solving the problems.

"Public transport has a direct impact on a city's livability and sustainability. So we felt it was important to focus on it and take stock of the quality of our public transport system, the glitches, problem areas and obstacles," says Satarupa Bhattacharya, program director, adding that a key objective of the initiative is to encourage more people to use public transport to commute. "Lack of adequate and effective last-mile connectivity continues to be one of the main factors for underutilisation of public transport," she states.

From mid-May until mid-June, her team of reporters and volunteers will visit metro stations and bus stands to gather information from commuters who use the services extensively and across long distances. "We hope to talk to roughly 15-20 people along each metro line," she reveals. The Foundation will also consult its WhatsApp community, titled Oorvani Change Network, which has over 500 active citizen members across various groups. "The volunteers will ask commuters about how the metro or bus changed their lives, what would encourage them to use it more often, etc," Satarupa shares. The team is also considering a bus stop audit. Members of the groups will visit one or two bus shelters each in their neighbourhood to report on the condition of the shelters and how they can be improved.

With poor last-mile connectivity, metro users rely heavily on autorickshaws. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Apart from Namma Metro and BMTC, the project will also take into consideration the much-delayed Bangalore Suburban Rail Project or K-Ride, primarily to figure out how to tackle the problem of deadlines that are constantly pushed back. At the end of the survey, Oorvani will host a talk and workshop, detailing their findings, for interested citizens.

"When we have a better understanding of the system, we will be able to use it more effectively," she notes.

POPCORN

Status upgrade

So Modiji is telling citizens to work from home, stop driving cars, and defer buying gold. And also, avoid foreign travel. All in the national interest. If those thoughts had never crossed your mind, congratulations. They used to call you poor, but your status has just been upgraded to patriotic. And it's a free upgrade. If you are in a more affluent segment, you are probably wondering what the appeal portends. In any case, he made all these announcements at an ashram in Bengaluru. Don't know if it was the spirit of the place — the holy sorts always work from om.

BIG CHILL

B'lureans take ice plunge

Once limited to sports professionals, cold water immersions are now drawing fitness enthusiasts, startup founders and people who are curious to try them

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Bengalureans are increasingly signing up for a wellness trend that involves sitting in tubs filled with ice or cold water, typically maintained between 15°C and -5°C.

Ice baths, or cold water plunges, are not new. Facilitators say they have long been used in sports for muscle recovery, reducing inflammation and building mental resilience (*see box*). In recent times, social media exposure, growing fitness culture, and easier access have pushed them into mainstream wellness culture in India.

In Bengaluru, sessions are priced between Rs 500 and Rs 1,200 per person. When combined with other wellness modalities such as sound healing or listening circles, they can cost around Rs 3,000 or more.

Vikas Dhawan, an IT professional and running enthusiast, has tried ice baths twice since April. His first dip, at 15°C, lasted 40 seconds. Over subsequent rounds, the temperature was gradually lowered to between 3°C and 5°C. "First, your body goes numb, then you enter a meditative state, followed by pure bliss," says the 42-year-old.

Over 40 people gathered for an ice bath meetup organised by Jayesh Phad in J P Nagar on Sunday.

Social meetups

On Sunday, around 45 people gathered at a brewery in J P Nagar for a meetup called the 'Cold Plunge Recovery Club'. The participants were aged 25 to 45, with slightly more men than women. They included gym-goers, runners, people on weight loss journeys, and others who wanted to "face their fears" after seeing the challenging task on social media. It was the third such meetup organised by Jayesh Phad, a former solution architect who quit his job in March to launch Siachen Tubs, a company that builds ice bath tubs. "I have been doing ice baths since 2021. Two to three times a week, I get into an ice bath first thing in the morning. It shocks the body, and clears the mind. I have seen my productivity improve," he says.

Motivational speaker Tony Robbins, podcast host Joe Rogan and investor Sahil Bloom are known to start their day with cold water immersion, he adds.

Healer Mamta Jain began offering ice baths less than six months ago at her Yeshwanthpur centre, Sound Sutraa, as well as at yoga studios, gyms and apartment complexes on demand. She combines sound healing with ice baths.

"With sound healing, we help people embrace the idea of surrendering to the ice instead of panicking. We encourage them to sit with the poking sensation and feel the pain," she explains.

A 27-year-old woman recently approached her with body pain so severe that even wearing jeans or a bra hurt. She also had sleep issues. "After the session, she told me she had slept peacefully for the first time in years," says Jain.

She says participants spend about three minutes in the bath before being guided to dip their heads underwater. "Some scream, some laugh, some just go silent," she says. Occasionally, people break down as their anxiety and frustration come to the surface.

Cold water plunges are also being added to longevity programmes at centres such as Club Everstrong in Bellandur. Afrid Ahmed, part of the health management team there, says demand is rising not just for recovery, but also for stress relief and mood improvement it "helps release endorphins". "We screen people first and do not advise it more than twice a week for those new to fitness," he says. Clients with high visceral fat are first eased into saunas to improve blood flow before moving to cold plunging, he adds.

Salt World in HSR Layout has been offering cold water plunges since October 2024 and says demand has risen by around 80% since then. Founder Deepthi Babu says, "With fitness events like Hyrox growing, more people are training intensely and looking for new recovery methods. We also see new-age entrepreneurs who want to reset their mind and body through aggressive wellness methodologies. Then we also get members of the biohacking community."

While men sign up in larger numbers overall, both Babu and Phad say women tend to adapt to icy water faster and stay in longer.

'COLD SHOWERS ENOUGH'

According to physiotherapist Sitaraman Sundaresan, cold showers are sufficient for the non-athletic population. Even in sports, he says, ice baths are more commonly recommended for endurance athletes than for those involved in power sports — "It's not for everyone". He also points out that there is an ongoing debate over whether hot water therapy or ice baths work better.

He insists that ice baths should only be offered after proper screening. They are unnecessary for those under 21 and should be avoided by people above 60. "A temperature between 5°C and 7°C is ideal, but frequency depends on the individual's body, including fat reserves and the nature of the injury," he says. Without proper precautions, ice baths can pose risks, especially for people with a family history of heart disease or diabetes. Unclean water can increase the risk of skin and urinary infections. In severe cases, it may cause hypothermia and lead to stroke, he warns.

The facilitators said they do not allow people with heart conditions, breathing problems or metal implants, as well as pregnant women. Participants are also taught breathing techniques and warm-up exercises. "We are trained in CPR and keep a doctor on speed dial. We haven't had an emergency so far," adds Mamta.

CHORAL TRIBUTE TO TAGORE

On Sunday, a 100-member choir from Karnataka performed Rabindra Sangeet at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, as a tribute to Rabindranath Tagore. Titled 'Chironuton 2026' and organised by Malancha, the event was part of a nationwide initiative in which choral groups across 11 states performed Rabindra Sangeet simultaneously at different venues.

Now, a platform to track corps' projects

The team has collated information using AI and their sources

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Urban planner Ashwin Mahesh and Bengaluru's 'bicycle mayor' Sathyanarayanan Sankaran have introduced a platform that tracks the progress of the city corporations' projects, as outlined in their respective budgets.

Called the City Latte platform, Mahesh and Sankaran took the help of AI to go through the budget speech documents of all corporations and list out their objectives and money allocated for each project. The team then used their sources and connections to gather information on the status of each of the works mentioned.

In Bangalore South Corporation, for instance, the platform lists 'Public Works' as having been allocated a budget of Rs 873 crore. Under this, there are four goals which make up 17.2 % of the budget. They include 'World Bank-funded stormwater drain development', costing Rs 440 crore and 'Streetlight LED conversion'. It does not mention the budget for the latter. Some of the other categories include administration, revenue, waste management, urban planning, mobility, health, education, animal welfare and lakes.

"This is an easy way to keep track of what is happening in each corporation. Not just for concerned citizens, but even for the commissioners and journalists," Mahesh says.

He notes that even eight months after the corporations were formed, only half the wards have ward offices.

"With platforms like this, it will be easy to hold the officials accountable," he states.

Look up city-latte.vercel.app

The sanitary pipes are currently being relaid on Lavelle Road. 'Public works' has been allocated a budget of Rs 2,668.25 crore in Central City Corporation's budget, according to the platform. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

A knowledge keeper's final task

SHARON NATASHA
TEAM METROLIFE

'Vanapuri Vaathukaaran', a title that roughly translates to 'the duck herder of the forest city', is a new theatre production by the Bengaluru-based Adavi Arts Foundation. Premiering on Saturday, the performance follows a Vaathukaaran (duck herder) who undertakes one final task: delivering the last letters of people shaped and silenced by war, migration, caste, protest and loss.

The Tamil play draws from the memories of its director, Naren, who grew up knowing the Vaathukaaran, a clown-like figure in traditional Tamil theatre and the keeper of a community's intangible knowledge. When Naren left his village and eventually returned, the figure he had grown up with was simply gone. "I couldn't find him anymore. That absence stayed with me," Naren recalls.

The Vaathukaaran's disappearance, whether through migration, globalisation or caste-based erasure, is what the play investigates. The production also engages with a history of representation in Indian theatre, questioning who has historically been permitted to embody power on stage, and who has been relegated to its margins.

Naren says the play was rehearsed in a small house in Attibele, sometimes on the road outside, with the whole collective cooking, cleaning and rehearsing.

On May 16, 7 pm, at Shoonya, Lal Bagh Main Road. Call 90801 17469.

A snapshot from the rehearsal.
PIC CREDIT: SURAJ AND ADITI

CITY MIX

Exhibition on planetary emergency for children

Natural History Museum's prestigious exhibition, 'Fixing Our Broken Planet', is on view at Umi Early Years, Sanjayanagar, until May 31. Through guided sessions, it aims to introduce children to some of the most pressing environmental issues of our time, and encourage families to make meaningful changes in their daily lives. It covers topics such as climate change, biodiversity, and food choices. Open to children aged 4 to 12.

On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 3.30 pm to 5 pm. Details on @umiearlyyears on Instagram.

Remembering an imperfect mother

DEEPAK S N
TEAM METROLIFE

Mother is No God: Stories of Love, Memory and Imperfection', a recent event at the Bangalore International Centre marked the release of the English translation of author Vasudhendra's celebrated Kannada book 'Nammamma Andre Nangishta' as 'I Love My Amma'. It is translated by Narayan Shankaran and published by HarperCollins. The author was in conversation with the translator, and the session was moderated by ecologist and novelist Harini Nagendra.

Memories surfaced vividly. Vasudhendra recalled his mother's fondness for stainless steel vessels. During post-death rituals, when the crow refused to appear, relatives suggested he assure his late mother that her treasured vessels would be cared for. "The crow came," he recalled, drawing laughter. He remembered his mother returning a coffee filter because its holes were too tiny, only to later ridicule the enlarged holes as being "big enough for me to pass through". He also spoke of vessels named after actors — an Amitabh Bachchan spoon, for instance.

Vasudhendra insisted the memoir was never meant to glorify motherhood. "She was ordinary, just like me. She would say, 'Don't make me a goddess.'" The essays in the book were written after his mother's death. Shankaran spoke about the challenges of translating cultural nuances into English.

Can collecting grows amid shortage

Youngsters are turning beverage cans into decor and crafts, even as aluminium can crunch hit shelves

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

What began online during the pandemic as a quirky aesthetic trend has now found a following among Bengaluru's youth: collecting aluminium drink cans as room decor, art material and even memorabilia. But the trend has coincided with an ongoing shortage of aluminium cans in India, particularly affecting a sugar-free and low-calorie diet soda, turning some cans into unexpectedly prized objects. As this drink is sold almost exclusively in cans, the impact was high, unlike other sodas that are also available in plastic or glass bottles.

The West Asia crisis has disrupted imports of aluminium cans from Europe and Southeast Asia. India does not manufacture its own beverage cans, making the supply chain vulnerable to global disruptions, explains Souvik Bhattacharya, an industry expert focused on beverage packaging sustainability.

"In summer, the demand for soft drinks and beer typically exceeds supply. This year, the situation has been compounded by the West Asia crisis," he says, adding that rising import and input costs have worsened the situation. He estimates the shortage may continue for six months to a year despite ongoing capacity expansion efforts.

The scarcity became especially visible with viral social media trends that celebrated the drink and rued its absence with several catchy hashtags. Social media users experimented with the drink in ice golas, affogatos and cola floats, while other brands cashed in by selling the drink-inspired rugs, mirrors, lights and mugs, no less!

Over the weekend, the parent company introduced the drink in glass bottles sold in packs of six, a move that quickly went viral online. When *Metrolife* checked, the bottles, priced around Rs 480 for a pack compared to Rs 240 for canned versions, had already sold out on quick commerce platforms in Bengaluru. Aluminium cans are gradually returning to shelves, though stocks remain limited.

For collectors, however, the appeal goes beyond scarcity.

Samuel K, a 15-year-old student, began collecting cans in June 2024, mostly from energy drink brands. "Every flavour has a different theme and design that stands out," he says. His collection now includes 40 cans.

Sujana Sharma, an 18-year-old student, started collecting energy drink cans during the pandemic. "I had enough to cover almost one wall of my room," she says, though most were discarded when she moved for college. Others are turning cans into DIY projects. Kushal, a master's student, uses soft drink as well as energy drink cans to make miniature F1 cars, bag patches, ashtrays and phone decor inspired by Instagram tutorials.

Psychologist Mala Sridhar says the impulse to collect objects has deep roots. "Humans have always stockpiled things for emergencies. Today, it manifests differently, through collections of tickets, matchboxes or cans," she says.

Samuel K's collection of energy drink cans.

Born to throw, Tejaswini scales new heights

After a record-breaking 2025 in shot put, youngster dreams big

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

A certain Rao Ganesh Janardhan was left stunned when the body-builder saw his three-year-old daughter, Tejaswini G Rao, lift a 10kg dumbbell and ask if she could continue his routine. At that moment, Ganesh, an inspector with the Bengaluru City Police, knew his child possessed something special.

Her hyperactive nature only strengthened the belief of her parents, including her mother Shwetha P, that sport would be the ideal outlet for her energy. Gymnastics appeared to be the perfect fit, with its physical demands matching Tejaswini's agility and enthusiasm. Fate, however, had different plans for the youngster.

The Covid-19 pandemic brought gymnastics training to a standstill as sporting activities across the country came to a halt, forcing Tejaswini to look elsewhere. That search eventually led the family to experienced athletics coach Kanthamma, who decided to test the youngster across multiple disciplines.

"It's something I do with most of my young students," says Kanthamma, a former national-level middle-distance runner. "In Tejaswini's case, she turned out to be good in shot put and high jump as she was strong with her throws and was taller than many girls of her age."

By the age of 14, Tejaswini had already grown to 5 feet 9 inches but it was her exploits in shot put that truly stood tall.

Last year in Shivamogga, she produced a throw of 11.84 metres to rewrite Karnataka's U-14 record. The teenager was far from done, improving her personal best to 12.11m while competing against older athletes at the Indian U-16 Championships in Bhubaneswar.

Her progress continued through the season as she pushed her mark further to 13.13m at the SGFI Championships while representing St Mary's Girls' High School, Millers Road, Vasanthanagar. Behind those impressive numbers lies a disciplined routine, with Tejaswini travelling nearly two kilometres from her home in Vasanthanagar to the Sree Kanteerava Stadium twice every day to train under two different coaches.

The evenings are reserved for agility and mobility work with Kanthamma, while her mornings begin at 6 am with technical training under Karnataka's Arjuna Awardee SD Eshan. Between the two training sessions are her school hours, with Tejaswini often struggling to make it to her 8 am classes on time.

"My school has been very supportive of me since I performed well in competitions but at the beginning there were slight confusion," says Tejaswini, who turns 15 in June. "Since the school wasn't aware that I am getting late many days due to my training, I was getting scolded. Being a kid, I couldn't convince them either but they understood my mother went to the school and explained. They always had my back ever since."

That support has only fuelled Tejaswini's growing ambitions as she now sets her sights on the next big milestone in her career.

"I want to qualify and perform well at the U-18 Asian Championships (in China in 2027), that's something I have been aiming for before I think of anything else," says the teenager, who is also preparing for her board exams.

For feedback, email to dhsports@deccanherald.co.in

Tejaswini G Rao broke the U-14 state record in shot put in 2025.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Relegation worries deepen for Tottenham

Tel turns villain from hero in battling 1-1 draw against Leeds United

LONDON, AFP

Mathys Tel was the hero and villain as Tottenham drew 1-1 at home against Leeds on Monday -- a result that leaves their Premier League future hanging in the balance.

The Frenchman broke the deadlock early in the second half to ease the tension at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium but then gave away a penalty with a wild attempted clearance.

Spurs are now two points clear of West Ham, who were denied a stoppage-time equaliser by VAR on Sunday in a 1-0 defeat by Arsenal -- a potentially season-defining decision at both ends of the table.

That result at the London Stadium ensured that Leeds and Nottingham Forest were safe from relegation while Wolves and Burnley have already been relegated.

Tottenham did not have it all their own way against Daniel Farke's team in London as they chased just their third league win at home all season.

Spurs goalkeeper Antonin Kinsky got down smartly to his right to stop Joe Rodon's header on the line in the 21st minute.

At the other end, Joao Palhinha fired over from close range after surging into the penalty box as Spurs' shot count climbed but the game was goalless at the break.

Tottenham broke the deadlock five minutes after the restart when Tel controlled the ball instantly after it fell to him following a Pedro Porro corner.

The Frenchman picked his spot, curling the ball past a diving Karl Darlow.

But with about 20 minutes of normal time to go, Tel attempted an overhead kick to clear the ball from his own penalty area, making contact with the head of the onrushing Ethan Ampadu.

Referee Jarred Gillett ruled that it was a penalty after a VAR check and Dominic Calvert-Lewin made no mistake.

James Maddison was given a rousing welcome by the home crowd when he was introduced as a late substitute -- his first match of the season after recovering from an anterior cruciate ligament injury.

Then the referee signalled 13 minutes of added time -- a decision that lifted the home crowd further.

Kinsky produced a remarkable save in the 98th minute from point-blank range to deny Sean Longstaff.

Result: Tottenham Hotspurs: 1 (Tel 50th) drew with Leeds United: 1 (Calvert-Lewin 74th).

Leeds United's Dominic Calvert-Lewin celebrates after scoring the equaliser against Tottenham Hotspur on Monday night. REUTERS

Girona's late draw against Vallecano relegates Oviedo

MADRID, AP: A late goal from veteran striker Cristhian Stuani (**in pic**) rescued a point for Girona in a tense relegation encounter at Rayo Vallecano that guaranteed Real Oviedo will go down from La Liga.

The 1-1 draw meant Oviedo, in last place, will return to La Liga 2 after one season in the top tier. Girona were two points clear of the relegation zone with three games remaining.

However, only six points separate the nine teams from places 11th to 19th as a desperate relegation battle to avoid joining Oviedo looks certain to go to the final weekend.

Rayo, who last week beat Strasbourg to set up a Conference League final against Crystal Palace, came into the game on a high and were on top for much of the match.

However, they struggled to threaten the Girona goal and the deadlock wasn't broken until the 86th minute when Rayo Brazilian forward Alemao cleverly deflected in a long-range shot.

Not for the first time this season, Stuani came off the bench to save Girona. The big Uruguayan got his head on a corner in the 90th to secure a crucial point. Girona sat in 17th place, two points ahead of Alaves.

Result: Rayo Vallecano: 1 (Alemao 86th) drew with Girona: 1 (Stuani 90th).

Akarsh hits a ton in Vivekanagar's comfortable win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Openers Akarsh M Appinakatte scored a brilliant hundred while Bhavith Reddy AC notched up a fifty as Vivekanagar Cricketers trounced Merchants Cricket Club (1) by 214 runs in the KSCA under-16 Inter-club tournament here.

Vivekanagar, batting first and riding on contributions from Akarsh (111) and Bhavith (51), posted a competitive 278/3 in 42 overs.

In reply, Merchants Cricket Club (1) were shot out for a mere 64 all out in 29.1 overs, thanks to Preetham Gowda (3/18), Dushyanth Gowda (2/7) and Shashank Prabhakar (2/2).

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Vivekanagar Cricketers: 278/3 in 42 overs (Bhavith Reddy AC 51, Akarsh M Appinakatte 111, Sachit S Galatagi 39, Likhith P Jadhav 34 n.o., Jagan TP 30 n.o.) bt Merchants Cricket Club (1): 64 all out in 29.1 overs (Preetham Gowda 3-18, Dushyanth Gowda 2-7, Shashank Prabhakar 2-2).

Modern Cricket Club: 205 all out in 41.2 overs (Nethieek V Dave 41, Dhyey Gaurangkumar Shastri 58; Dikshan Bhandarkar 2-34, Rajdeep Banerjee 3-31, Dheekshith Bhaskar 2-38) lt to Johnson Cricket Club: 208/9 in 41.3 overs (Divyam Kumawat 48; Krishna Keshav Hebbar 3-49, Haadi Khan Suryani 3-35, Suriyha M 2-44).

Bangalore Star Cricket Association: 224 all out in 47.2 overs (Karmanye Puri 33, Suhas M 41, V Vedhanth 37, Sharath Kumar N 29; Aadit Haren Patel 3-37, Neeraj Dev Gowda 3-51, Agastya DS 2-11) lt to Bharath CC: 227/8 in 45.2 overs (Aniketh Kaushik Kundapur 35, Gaurav Jeevan 85 n.o.; Hridhaanreet Singh Wazir 3-53, Ajay Kumara 2-37).

South End Sports Club: 85 all out in 27.1 overs (Gollapalli Chetan Vishnu 2-11, Pranav Raghavendra Nayak 2-22, Aarav Singh 2-19, Swayam Shabadi 3-15) lt to Vultures Cricket Club (U-16): 89 for no loss in 14.1 overs (Anirudh M Bangera 52 n.o., Aaryan Nagesh 28 n.o.).

Minerva Cricket Club: 187 all out in 39 overs (Soumyarup Mukherjee 36, Shreyansu Mishra 29, Krishang Gupta 28 n.o.; Shwetansh RK 3-27, Tanish Bennuri 4-28) lt to Spartons Sports Club: 188/2 in 31.1 overs (Vastvik Sharma 80 n.o., K Hrithik Polin 55; Soumyarup Mukherjee 2-73).

Jawahar SC (2): 38 all out in 26.5 overs (Atharv Karadi 3-11, Ujwal Krishna B 4-11) lt to RVCE Gymkhana: 39/1 in 2.5 overs.

Kriish, Manish progress

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

With his trademark tresses now cut short and his on-court swag seemingly upgraded to a more mature style, wild card entrant Kriish Tyagi posted an opening round win at the Karnataka Open ATP 50 Challenger here on Tuesday.

As one of the few Indian teen talents on the radar for a few years now, the 19-year-old Bengaluru boy scored a 6-2, 7-5 win over qualifier Taiyo Yamanaka of Japan at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium.

Back home after moving to the USA a year ago to study and play collegiate tennis at the Texas A&M University, Kriish is competing in his first Tour-level tournament of the season. And the local hope set the right tone from the word go by breaking his opponent's serve in the very first game. Holding serve quite comfortably, Kriish broke Yamanaka again in the seventh game before serving out the first set 6-2.

Ranked 1322 in the world, Kriish was expected to dominate the second set as well. But the 24-year-old Japanese (world No. 857), looking more comfortable on the court, served accurately and returned cleanly to counter his Indian opponent's attacks. With both players holding fort, Kriish finally found a breakthrough in the 11th game to go up 6-5. That one break, in the end, was enough for the local lad to seal the deal 7-5.

India's Manish Sureshkumar returns during his win over USA's Ronit Karki at the Karnataka Open ATP Challenger in Bengaluru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO / B K JANARDHAN

In another encounter, Manish Sureshkumar walked out of the court with a smile that has taken over six years to come by. This was because the 26-year-old's previous ATP Challenger main draw win was in November 2019 at the Maharashtra Open in Pune.

On Tuesday, Manish – a regular on the ITF Tour – posted a 6-4, 7-6 (7) win over qualifier Ronit Karki of USA to move into the round of 16.

Earlier, Mukund Sasikumar brought more delight for the hosts as he stitched together a 6-3, 7-6 (1) victory over Malaysia's Mitsuki Wei Kang Leong.

Meanwhile, the lone seeded Indian (at six) at the event, Karan Singh, failed to live up to the expectations, losing 6-7, 3-6 to unseeded Kokoro Isomura of Japan. More disappointment followed as Mysuru's SD Prajwal Dev lost 1-6, 4-6 to Australia's Joshua Charton.

Additionally, the other Indian Digvijaypratap Singh's valiant effort came to an end with a (5) 6-7, (5) 6-7 loss to fourth-seeded Philip Sekulic of Australia.

Results: Roud of 32 (prefix denotes seedings): 4-Philip Sekulic (Aus) bt Digvijaypratap Singh (Ind) 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5); Mukund Sasikumar (Ind) bt Mitsuki Wei Kang Leong (Mas) 6-3, 7-6 (1); 2-Hamish Stewart (GBR) bt Omar Jasika (Aus) 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-3; Kokoro Isomura (Jpn) bt 6-Karan Singh (Ind) 7-6 (6), 6-3; Manish Sureshkumar (Ind) bt Q-Ronit Karki (USA) 6-4, 7-6 (7); Q-Alastair Gray (GBR) bt 3-Petr Bar Biryukov 6-7 (5), 6-4, 7-6 (3); Joshua Charlton (Aus) bt D Prajwal Dev (Ind) 6-1, 6-4; WC-Kriish Tyagi (Ind) bt Q-Taiyo Yamanaka (Jpn) 6-2, 7-5; Ilya Ivashka bt Kuan-Yi Lee (Tpe) 6-2, 6-0; 1-Keegan Smith (USA) bt Q-Ryotaro Taguchi (Jpn) 6-1, 6-4; Amit Vales (Isr) bt Q-Aditya Vishal Balsekar (Ind) 6-2, 6-2; Q-Christopher Papa (USA) bt Ryuki Matsuda (Jpn) 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-2.

Sinner dismisses Pellegrino to reach quarters

ROME, AP: The records keep coming for Jannik Sinner. The top-ranked Sinner beat qualifier Andrea Pellegrino 6-2, 6-3 to reach the Italian Open quarterfinals on Tuesday and match Novak Djokovic's record with a 31st consecutive Masters Series victory.

Sinner hasn't been beaten in a Masters Series event - the biggest tournaments outside the Grand Slams - since he retired with cramps in extreme heat against Tallon Griekspoor in Shanghai in October.

Djokovic won 31 straight Masters matches in 2011.

If Sinner raises the trophy in Rome, he'll become the second man after Djokovic to triumph at all nine Masters 1000 events. Djokovic has won each event at least twice.

Sinner has already won a record five straight Masters events.

BFI reverts to trial-based system

NEW DELHI, PTI: The boxing selection camp for the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games will resume on Wednesday after the national federation BFI reverted to the trial-based system following Sport Authority of India's directive to make its assessment process fair and transparent.

In its revised evaluation procedure, the Boxing Federation of India has scrapped the earlier marking-based assessment system that had come under scrutiny after SAI received complaints from several boxers.

Under the new selection system, a five-member panel comprising the head coach and four judges will evaluate the bouts, with results to be declared immediately after the contests.

"This is to notify that the selection of boxers for the CWG, Asian Games, and other international competitions shall be conducted from 13th May to 15th May 2026 of the Ongoing Elite National Campers at NS NIS Patiala," BFI said in a notification on Tuesday.

"A revised evaluation system based on sparring performance shall be adopted in place of the existing assessment methodology," it added.

Limaye qualifies for Asian Games in two categories

BENGALURU, DHNS: Indian equestrian rider Ashish Limaye (**in pic**) created history at the Eventing Sopot Spring Tour in Sopot, Poland, as he qualified for the Asian Games in two separate events.

Riding D'Avril du Pinier, Limaye finished fourth in CCI 4L (a top-tier four-day eventing competition) to achieve individual qualification for both Asiad and World Games.

Later, he achieved another fourth-placed finish in the CCI 3S (eventing competition comprising dressage, cross-country, and show jumping) to bag his second Asiad qualification.

"Representing India on an international platform and achieving qualification for both the World Games and the Asian Games is an incredibly proud moment for me. Competing in Sopot against such strong international riders was a great learning experience," said Ashish, who is supported by Embassy International Riding School (EIRS).

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd. (KUIDFC)
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Nagarabhivriddhi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560 038.
Website: www.kuidfc.com **e-Mail:** info@kuidfc.com
Phone: +91-80-25196124 Fax: 080-25196110

No: KUIDFC/Admn/NB/Transformer/2025-26 Date: 12-05-2026

e-Tender Notification (Call-03)

KUIDFC invites tender for following service from the eligible bidders. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

SN	Name of Work	Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.
1	Supply, installing, testing and commissioning of 250 KVA Dry type, copper winding transformer at Nagarabhivruddhi Bavana KUIDFC.	20,000/-

1) Tender Publish Date: **12.05.2026.** 2) Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: **20.05.2026 Time: 11.30 AM.** 3) Last Date & Time for Bid submission: **30.05.2026 Time: 5.30 PM.** 4) Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: **01.06.2026 Time: 11.30 AM.** 5) Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid: **10.06.2026 Time: 11.30 AM.**

Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further notification will be through KPP portal and KUIDFC official website only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager (ADMN)
KUIDFC-Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/617/MAA/2026-27

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hegganahalli Division, 4th Cross Road, 2nd Main Road, 3rd Block, HMT Layout, Near BWSSB water Tank, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru - 73.

No:BWCC/EE/HD/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 12-05-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER TENDER DOCUMENT SYSTEM)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Hegganahalli Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites tenders on behalf of the commissioner, BWCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the Work / Category
1.	Improvements to roads and drains in GKW layout, Cross Roads to Sai sumukha Appartment road, Ramaih layout and surrounding area in Ward No. 24 Hegganahalli. **Amount put to Tender: ₹.76.17 Lakhs, EMD Amount : ₹.1,52,500/- (Others)**
2.	Improvements to roads, drains and Culverts in Chokkasandra in Ward No. 21 In Peenya Industrial Area Sub Division. **Amount put to Tender: ₹.84.74 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.84,740/- (SC)**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded in the KPP portal from **14-05-2026** at **4:00** pm (2) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders on **25-05-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Opening of Technical Bid on **26-05-2026** at **4:30** pm. (4) Opening of Financial Bid: **27-05-2026.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Hegganahalli Division, BWCC

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ
ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ, ವಾರ್ಡ್ 10, ಎನ್ ಆರ್ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ–563 125, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08154–252056/ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 08154–252117, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್:itstaff_ulb_chintamanicity@yahoo.in, cmc.chintamani@gmail.com, ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್:www.chintamanicity.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸಚಿ/ತಾಂಶಾ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/06/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.05.2026

ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆಜಿ, ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸಚಿ/ತಾಶಾ/ಸಿಆರ್/06/2026–27
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.05.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ 2000 ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **(1)** DMA/2025-26/SE7426 call-3 **(2)** DMA/2025-26/SE6086 call-6 **(3)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT56178/CALL-2 **(4)** DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT58049 **(5)** DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT58044 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಸೂಚನೆಗಳು ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು **ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.05.2026 ರಂದು ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 17:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.05.2026 ರಂದು ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.**

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:54/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids againts for the following enquiry numbers.

(1) No.: CEE/Tr(op)ZB/SEE(O)/AEE-4/F-368(2)/2026-27/1234 Date: 07.05.2026

KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/PTK-03/2026-27 for Replacement of age old and deteriorated PCVCB Switchgears of Areva make (2I/C+2B/C+9F+2C/B) by new MCVCB Switchgears (2I/C+2B/C+9F+2C/B) at 66/11kV Malur I/A sub-station in Malur Taluk, Kolar District in Malur Operation Division **on Partial Turnkey Basis** including supply of all matching materials **(Excluding Supply of 11kV Switchgears)**/ equipments and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning.

(2) No.: CEE/Tr(op)ZB/SEE(O)/AEE-4/F-356(3)/2026-27/1313 Date: 11.05.2026

No.KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/B/2025-26/03/C-Type Wedge Connectors (Call-3) for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of **C-Type Wedge Connectors** of various sizes for replacing weak terminal and clamps at various 220/66/11KV and 66/11KV sub-stations coming under (Operation) Division Kolar, Transmission (Operation) Zone, Bengaluru conforming to KPTCL Technical Specifications, F.O.R.D. at Store/site basis, including insurance and transportation

The bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging into E Procurement website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 13.05.2026.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec.), Transmission (Operation) Zone, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-09.

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"I won't beat around the bush, I'll just say fielding and bowling again. I always say that the hard length - short of a hard length is the best ball. We've been short of planning.

SHREYAS IYER, PBKS CAPTAIN

IN BRIEF

Renowned ex-cager Browne no more

▸ Former Karnataka basketball player and coach Derick Browne passed away at the age of 85 in Bengaluru on May 9 following prolonged ill health, reports DHNS.

Browne played for Devanga Union Basketball Club and the MEG basketball team during the 1960s and 70s, besides representing Karnataka and Services teams in National Championships.

After retiring from MEG, he served as Sports Director at Bishop Cotton Boys' School and Cathedral School. Browne also coached the Karnataka women's team in the National Championships and was credited with producing many accomplished players.

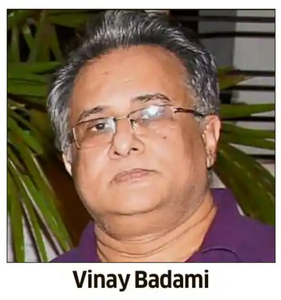
Ex footballer Johney dies

▸ Former Karnataka footballer CP Johney passed away at the age of 72 on Monday night at his residence in Ulsoor, leaving the state football fraternity in mourning, reporst DHNS.

Johney represented Karnataka in the Junior National Championships during the 1980s and was known for playing in the left-out position.

He was a key player for the renowned BEL football club, winning prestigious tournaments such as the George Hoover Cup and CPM Trophy with them.

Johney also featured in the Nizam Gold Cup and several All India tournaments, earning recognition for Karnataka football.



Vinay Badami

Former State junior cricketer Badami no more

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former Karnataka junior cricketer and IT professional Vinay S Badami passed away following a heart attack at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Monday. He was 56.

Vinay had represented Karnataka in the U-17, 19 and 21 categories as a wicketkeeper-batter and had shared the dressing room with former India cricketers Anil Kumble and Venkatesh Prasad. He was the son of international cricket umpire B Sathyaji Rao and senior journalist Nagamani S Rao.

Apart from cricket, Vinay built a successful career in the technology sector, working with renowned companies, including Google, for the last six years.

He is survived by his wife and son. His last rites were held at the Banashankari crematorium on Tuesday afternoon.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: RCB vs KKR **(7:30 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Manchester City vs Crystal Palace **(12:30 am, Thursday). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

La Liga: Espanyol vs Athletic Club, Villareal vs Sevilla **(both 10:30 pm)**, Deportivo Alaves vs Barcelona **(1:00 am, Thursday). LIVE** on **FanCode.**

TENNIS

ATP Masters: Rome Masters Quarterfinals **(5:30 pm). LIVE** on **FanCode.**

Titans go top as SRH implode

Sudharsan, Sundar, bowlers script inspiring 82-run win

AHMEDABAD, PTI

Gujarat Titans outclassed Sunrisers Hyderabad by 82 runs to take the top position in the Indian Premier League points table with a compelling all-round show here on Tuesday.

After half-centuries from Sai Sudharsan (61) and Washington Sundar (50) took the Titans to 168 for five in a scratchy outing with the bat, Kagiso Rabada (3/28) ran through SRH's top-order and Jason Holder (3/20) followed up with an incisive spell to script a fifth consecutive victory for the IPL 2022 winners.

Chasing 169, SRH collapsed to 60 for seven courtesy Rabada's exploits with the new ball and Holder's inroads post the powerplay, eventually rolling over for 86 in 14.5 overs to lose heavily.

If a two-paced wicket had made run-scoring difficult at the start of the contest, it was Rabada's class all over the belligerent SRH batters in the second innings, with the South African pacer snaring three wickets in his four overs - all bowled upfront.

It all began with Mohammed Siraj (3-1-11-1) starting with a wicket-maiden, first cutting the impact sub Travis Head into half with a jaffa and then inducing a leading edge which flew all the way down to deep backward point.

Head fetched the ball bowled on line down the leg and went hard at it. The ball ballooned to the third man where Nishant Sindhu took an easy grab.

Abhishek Sharma (6) lofted Rabada over the infield for a six down the pitch, but the bowler followed the left-hander when he tried to make room.

SCORE BOARD

GUJARAT TITANS: Sai Sudharsan c Hinge b Hussain 61, Shubman Gill c Klaasen b Hinge 5, Jos Buttler c Kishan b Hinge 7, Nishant Sindhu c Klaasen b Cummins 22, Washington Sundar c Kishan b Hussain 50, Jason Holder (not out) 11, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 4. Extras (LB-2, W-6) 8. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 20 overs) 168.**

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-26, 3-64, 4-124, 5-165.

Bowling: Pat Cummins 4-0-20-1, Nitish Kumar Reddy 3-0-27-0, Praful Hinge 3-0-17-2, Eshan Malinga 4-0-46-0, Sakib Hussain 4-0-37-2, Shivang Kumar 2-0-19-0.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: Travis Head c Sindhu b Siraj 0, Abhishek Sharma b Rabada 6, Ishan Kishan c Buttler b Rabada 11, Ravichandran Smaran c Gill b Rabada 9, Heinrich Klaasen c Buttler b Holder 14, Salil Arora c Buttler b Prasidh 16, Nitish Kumar Reddy c Sundar b Holder 2, Pat Cummins c Siraj b Prasidh 19, Shivang Kumar c Buttler b Holder 4, Praful Hinge st Buttler b Rashid 3, Eshan Malinga (not out) 0. Extras (W-1, LB-1) 2. **TOTAL (all out, 14.5 overs) 86.**

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-6, 2-23, 4-32, 5-56, 6-56, 7-60, 8-72, 9-82.

Bowling: Mohammed Siraj 3-1-11-1, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-28-3, Jason Holder 4-0-20-3, Prasidh Krishna 3-0-23-2, Rashid Khan 0.5-0-3-1.

Result: GT won by 82 runs

PoM: Kagiso Rabada

Jason Holder picked up 3/20 to help Gujarat Titans beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 82 runs at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. REUTERS

Abhishek fell meekly as the ball crashed into his wickets after hitting the bat.

Rabada was all over the SRH batters and none of them had answers to his probing classical line and lengths.

In the fourth over, Ishan Kishan (11) could not prevent edging one behind when the ball nipped away from him, leaving SRH reeling at 23 for three.

While there wasn't any fourth wicket for Rabada, he snared his third in the final over of the powerplay, getting R Smaran to hit one straight to Shubman Gill at mid-on, with SRH crawling to 32 for four.

SRH's slide continued even as Rabada was bowled out and Siraj taken off the attack.

Having batted patiently, Heinrich Klaasen (14) looked to go after one from Holder but the ball not only stuck onto the surface a little but also bounced higher than anticipated, taking a leading edge which was collected by Jos Buttler behind the wickets.

'Detached' Bhuvi's pursuit of excellence

Veteran pacer has upped the ante this season for the Royal Challengers

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
RAIPUR, DHNS

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Bhuvneshwar Kumar has picked up 21 wickets at an average of 15.29 this season. AFP

Chants reverberated inside the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium when Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Bhuvneshwar Kumar had Mumbai Indians dancing to his tunes.

Raipur, hosting its first IPL game in a decade, was treated to a glimpse of the past, present, and maybe the short-term future of the master craftsman.

At 36, when most fast bowlers are contemplating retirement, the Uttar Pradesh quick appears to be operating on a completely different level, racking up 21 wickets this season, the highest since his Purple Cap-winning 2017 edition.

He also has six three-wicket hauls in 11 games, equalling the joint-most three-fors in IPL history in a single edition.

In an era where bowlers are being treated like mere bowling machines, he has given away runs at just 7.47. So what's the secret?

"The ball is coming out nicely. But that was the case last year and before that," Bhuvneshwar said during a select RCB media interaction at the team hotel. "When you take wickets, everything looks good. But I am not doing anything different. Wickets, however, give you confidence. When you are confident, there are chances that you will execute things better."

While comebacks are not generally fashionable in Indian cricket after a certain age, Bhuvneshwar's recent numbers suggest there is a case to be made. And former teammate R Ashwin also suggested that he should be back in India's T20 scheme of things.

"Make Ash the selector," Bhuvneshwar responded with a smile.

However, on a more serious note, he assures you that he is at complete peace with it.

"I was at peace with it the day I was dropped from the team. It was also easy for me to detach as an all-format cricketer because I was there for 10 years. I have seen everything."

Clearly, Bhuvneshwar's longevity also stands out in his career. He is the only pacer to play 201 IPL games, with the next best being Dwayne Bravo (161) and Jasprit Bumrah (156).

While he has had injuries, there has not been an extended layoff, a testament to his innate competitiveness, hard work and dedication to the craft.

"At 36, it is tough on the body. Recovery takes longer. However, after India (international cricket), I have had enough time to train harder. But it takes a lot (to not get injured). It is what they (players) do in the off-season. But, of course, there is no guarantee that you will not get injured. During the season, it is more of a physios' responsibility. The same thing is happening with me, because I have a few niggles. But it is being managed very well."

As age, inevitably catches up, Bhuvneshwar now picks and chooses his calendar wisely. "There is enough cricket for me throughout the year to keep training and stay fresh. I just play IPL, UPT20 League and Syed Mushtaq Ali."

In the T20 era, increasingly shaped by turbocharged batting, Bhuvneshwar said that it is a very fine line to comment if bowlers are complicating things or just not doing enough to keep getting better.

"It's a very fine line to say that bowlers are making it complicated or they are not trying enough. Everything depends on the situation or the batsmen. It's not just one factor where we try to be traditional or old-fashioned. But, yes, it's a very fine line to say that we are overcomplicating it or we are just being traditional."

RCB look to close in on playoffs spot

Champs face tough spin challenge against Kolkata

RAIPUR, PTI

Royal Challengers Bengaluru will require a significantly punchier batting effort to overcome Kolkata Knight Riders' in-form bowling unit and close in on an IPL playoffs berth here on Wednesday.

RCB are currently perched atop the points table with 14 points but they will lose that spot to either Sunrisers Hyderabad or Gujarat Titans who also have 14 points.

However, more than that temporary slip, the RCB management will be focussed on their batters, who would be expected to deliver the signature effort that marked their campaign early this season.

The Bengaluru batting unit was a pale shadow of its fear-inducing self against Mumbai Indians while chasing a middling 167 here.

They needed a determined half-century from Krunal Pandya and a six in the fourth ball of the final over from Bhuvneshwar Kumar to chase that down.

RCB skipper Rajat Patidar's contribution is important in that aura-rebuilding exercise.

After a glorious run early in the tournament, punctuated by a shower of sixes, the right-hander seems to have slumped off late, managing just one fifty-plus score and one 20-plus score in the last six innings.

RCB skipper Rajat Patidar will be looking to overcome his mini slump in form when they take on KKR in Raipur on Wednesday. DH FILE PHOTO

LIVE 7:30 PM

It has reduced the RCB's middle-order firepower to a certain degree but contributions from other batters like Devdutt Padikkal and Tim David have helped them stay above the water. However, they will be up against a potent Knight Riders' bowling unit that has mystery spinners Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy, who have been well-supported by domestic names like Kartik Tyagi, Vaibhav Arora and Anukul Roy.

Their superb outings have helped the Kolkatans register four wins on the trot after faltering initially.

If the Raipur pitch retains its tacky character from the previous match, then the RCB batters will have one heck of a job at hand against a competent set of KKR bowlers.

But the three-time champions are still eighth on the table with nine points from 10 matches, and a misadventure here will certainly push them closer to elimination from the playoffs race.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Gujarat Titans	12	8	4	0	16	0.551
Royal Challengers	11	7	4	0	14	1.103
Sunrisers Hyderabad	12	7	5	0	14	0.331
Punjab Kings	11	6	4	1	13	0.428
Chennai Super Kings	11	6	5	0	12	0.185
Rajasthan Royals	11	6	5	0	12	0.082
Delhi Capitals	12	5	7	0	10	-0.993
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	4	5	1	9	-0.169
Mumbai Indians	11	3	8	0	6	-0.585
Lucknow Super Giants	11	3	8	0	6	-0.907

Dravid to co-own Dublin Guardians

NEW DELHI, AFP: Former India captain Rahul Dravid **(in pic)** has been named co-owner of the Dublin Guardians in the new European T20 Premier League, starting in August, as part of an Indian consortium.

Batting great Dravid is the latest in a string of former cricketers to take an ownership stake in one of the league's six franchises based in Dublin, Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell is co-owner of Belfast Wolves while former Australia captain Steve Waugh is among the owners of the Amsterdam Flames.

New Zealanders Nathan McCullum and Kyle Mills are owners of Edinburgh Castle Rockers while West Indies white-ball legend Chris Gayle is a co-owner of Glasgow Cosmic. South Africans Jonty Rhodes, Faf Du Plessis and Heinrich Klaasen are owners of Rotterdam Dockers.

"Dublin already has a passionate cricketing community and enormous potential for growth," said the 53-year-old Dravid.

Satwik-Chirag prevail in a thriller to clear first hurdle

BANGKOK, PTI: Top seeds Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty **(both in pic)** survived a stiff challenge before defeating Indonesia's Muh Putra Erwiansyah and Bagas Maulana in a thrilling three-game opener of the men's doubles competition at the Thailand Open Super 500 tournament here on Tuesday.

The world No. 4 Indian pair registered a 21-19, 21-23, 21-10 win over Muh and Bagas in 64 minutes.

The Indian pair found themselves trailing 11-16 in the first game before reeling off seven straight points to turn the tide. Muh and Bagas fought back to make it 18-18, but Satwik and Chirag held their nerve to take the opening game.

The second game remained closely fought, with both pairs engaged in long rallies before the Indians managed to take a slender three-point lead at the interval.

The Indonesian pair, however, dominated the exchanges after the break and moved ahead 17-14. Despite a spirited fightback from the Indians, the match eventually went into a decider.

In the third game, Satwik and Chirag stamped their authority, racing to an 11-5 lead at the break before cruising through the remainder of the contest.

The Indian pair will face Malaysia's Bryan Jeremy Goonting and Muhammad Haikal next.

Aneesh, Lakshya, Naisha shine

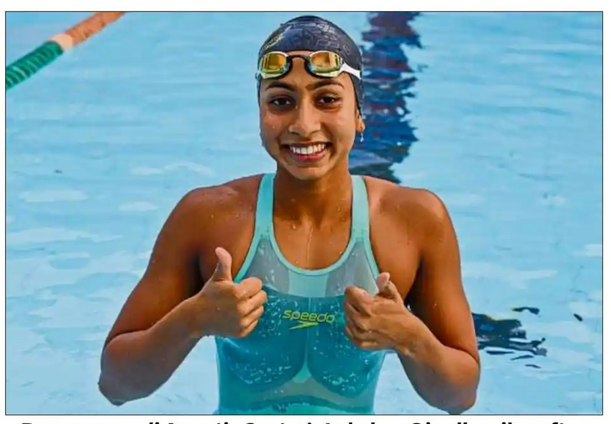
BENGALURU, DHNS

Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre's Aneesh S Gowda, S Lakshya, Naisha and Shoan Ganguly all broke meet records on the second day of the KSA State Senior Swimming Championships here on Tuesday.

Aneesh clocked 1:51.87 to beat his own record in the men's 200m freestyle event he set last year while S Lakshya touched the pad in 1:13.67 in the women's 100m breaststroke event.

In the women's 200m backstroke competition, Naisha scripted a new meet record to take home gold with a 2:23.92 effort.

Dolphin Aquatics' Tanishi Gupta broke the women's 100m butterfly meet record with a time of 1:00.49.



Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre's Lakshya S is all smiles after breaking the women's 100m breaststroke record on Tuesday.
DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Results: 200m freestyle: Aneesh S Gowda (BAC) 1:51.87 (MR; Old: 1:52.41, Aneesh S Gowda, 2025), 1; Dharshan S (BAC) 1:51.92, 2; Dhakshan S (BAC), 3.
1500m freestyle: Dharshan S (BAC) 16:15.79, 1; Pavan Dhananjaya (BAC) 16:22.29, 2; Dhakshan S (BAC) 16:23.54, 3.
100m butterfly: Chinthan S Shetty (LAS) 56.38s, 1; Shrivardhan Rajaram Patil (BAC) 57.51, 2; R Navaneeth Gowda (DA) 57.76, 3.
400m individual medley: Shoan Ganguly (BAC) 4:31.99 (MR; Old: 4:33.77, Shiva S, 2022) 1; Shivank Vishwanath (BAC) 4:40.06, 2; Pavan Dhananjaya (BAC) 4:40.59, 3.
4x100 medley relay: Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre (4:00.72s), 1; Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre (4:01.76), 2; Dolphin Aquatics (4:08.34), 3.
Women: 100m freestyle: Dhinidhi Desinghu (DA) 58.41s, 1; Tanishi Gupta (DA) 58.57, 2; Nina Venkatesh (DA) 59.26, 3.
400m freestyle: Dhinidhi Desinghu (DA) 4:32.67, 1; Sri Charani Tumu (JIRS) 4:37.35, 2; Adithi Vinayak Relekar (BAC) 4:39.68, 3.
100m backstroke: Tanishi Gupta (DA) 1:05.16 (MR; Old: 1:05.81, Ridhima Veerendrakumar), 1; Nina Venkatesh (DA) 1:06.51, Priyanshi Misra (BAC) 1:06.95, 3.
200m: Naisha (BAC) 2:23.92 (MR; Old: 2:24.54, Ridhima Veerendrakumar, 2022) 1; Vihitha Nayana (BAC) 2:30.06 2; Sunidhi S Halkare (SCB) 2:30.36, 3.
100m breaststroke: S Lakshya (BAC) 1:13.67 (MR; Old: 1:14.92, Manavi Varma, 2023), 1; Lineysha AK (DA), 1:15.53, 2; Manavi Varma (DA) 1:16.42, 3.
100m butterfly: Tanishi Gupta (DA) 1:00.49 (MR; Old: 1:03.45, Nina Venkatesh 2023), 1; Nina Venkatesh (DA) 1:04.72, 2; Naisha Shetty (SLSA) 1:04.88, 3.
400m individual medley: Thanya S (JIRS) 5:08.65 (MR; Old: 5:11.17, Thanya S, 2024), 1; S Lakshya (BAC) 5:21.20, 2; Aditi N Mulay (BAC) 5:23.82, 3.
4x100 mixed medley relay: Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre (4:09.49), 1; Dolphin Aquatics (4:15.11), 2; Dolphin Aquatics (4:16.21), 3.

Blue Diamond post big win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Babu, Manimaran and Selva scored a brace each as Blue Diamond FC thrashed Pioneer FC Bangalore 8-0 in the KSFA C Division League Championship at the BFS here on Tuesday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: Blue Diamond FC: 8 (Manimaran 8th, 22nd, Babu 13th, 24th, Selva 35th, 50th, Prashanth 52nd, Prem 54th) bt Pioneer FC Bangalore: 0; Agniputhra FA: 2 (Sai Sathya 16th, Salih 29th) bt Mahesh Raj United FC: 1 (Vishal 5th); Annsh Sports Club: 4 (Arun Kumar K 37th, 45th, 58th) bt Victoria FC Bangalore: 2 (Narasimha L 30th+1, 48th); Play 365: 6 (Nihal K 10th, Shushruth M 20th, 30th, Muhammed Shan 31st, Yesh Raj 35th, Karthik Rahul 60th) bt Yelahanka FC: 0; Ronaldo FC Bengalore: 1 (MangLen Lal Kipgen 2nd) bt Blue Moon FC: 0; BD United: 0 drew with RVFC: 0.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com